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MGW

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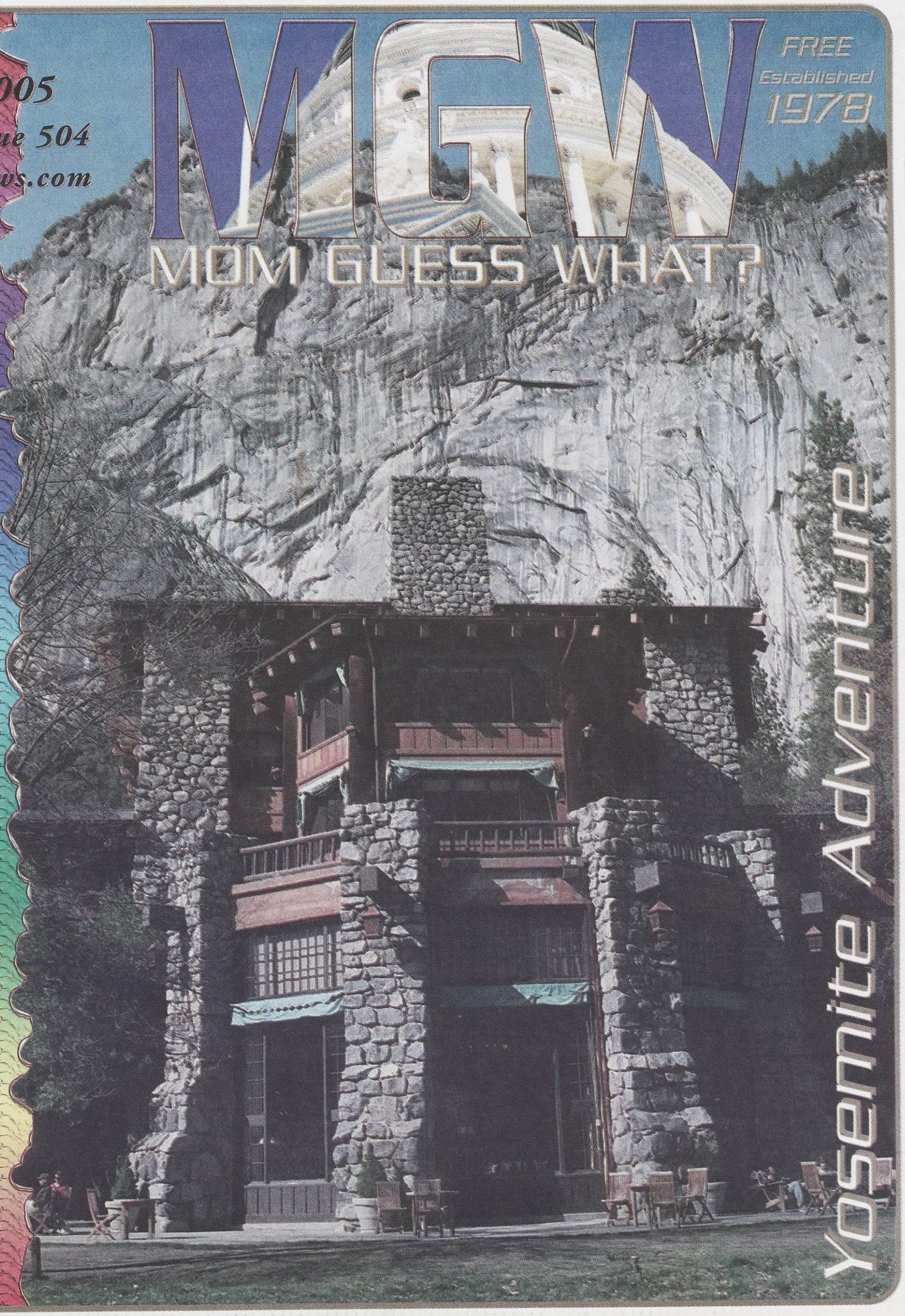

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Congratulations to 2005's LeatherSir Mike Kelly and Leatherboy Darryl Strohl

Sacramento's gay community is celebrating the win of Mike Kelly as Sacramento LeatherSir 2005 and Darryl Strohl as Sacramento Leatherboy 2005 at the 4th annual Sacramento LeatherSir and Leatherboy contest held May 6, 7 and 8. The weekend's festivities started on Friday, May 6, with a "Meet and Greet" at The Bolt which raised over $440 for Breaking Barriers. The contest was held on May 7, from 8-10pm at Club 21. The weekend's activities concluded with a huge Victory Brunch held at Hamburger Mary's restaurant on Sunday, May 8.

The LeatherSir and Leatherboy contest promotes the best of the gay leather community. Community service is a major focus of the titleholders' activities. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised by various titleholders in the LeatherSir and Leatherboy community across the country.

The Sacramento LeatherSir and Leatherboy 2005 contest emcee was Mr. Gay Sacramento David Dilley. Also competing were Hank Williams for LeatherSir and Rob Pierce for Leatherboy. The Judges for the contest were Sacramento LeatherSir 2004 Jim Austin, Sacramento Leatherboy 2004 Jon Lopez, Mama Sandy Reinhardt, Sage, Mr. Bolt Leather 05-06 John Yant, and Mike Hylzoff who is Emperor of Sacramento. Tally Masters for the contest were Owen Rowell SVL's Vice-President, and The Honorable Scott Gruendl, Mayor of the City of Chico. The contestant coordinator was Brian Williams who is Sacramento & Northern California LeatherSir 2003. The Judges' Assistant was Joseph Davis. ▼

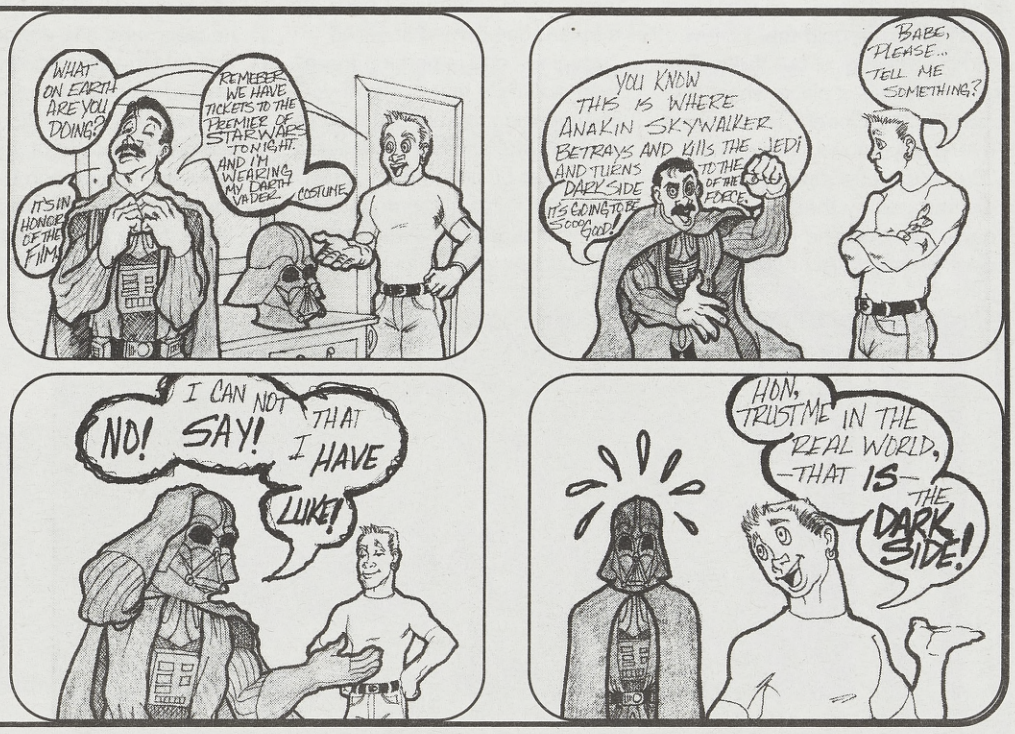
http://svlclub.org/

Darryl Strohl as Sacramento Leatherboy 2005 (left) and Mike Kelly as Sacramento LeatherSir 2005 at the 4th annual Sacramento LeatherSir and Leatherboy contest held this past weekend: May 6th, 7th and 8th.

STAR WARS VII: THE QUEEN WARS

by

A.J. QUADROS


WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S IN HONOR OF THE FILM
REMEBER WE HAVE TICKETS TO THE PREMIER OF STAR WARS TONIGHT. AND I'M WEARING MY DARTH VADER COSTUME.
YOU KNOW THIS IS WHERE ANAKIN SKYWALKER BETRAYS AND KILLS THE JEDI AND TURNS TO THE DARK SIDE OF THE FORCE.
IT'S GOING TO BE SOOOO GOOD!
BABE, PLEASE... TELL ME SOMETHING?
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A DRAG QUEEN TOTALLY PISSED OFF... AND IN FULL BITCH MODE?
SURE
WHAT?
I CAN NOT SAY! NO! THAT I HAVE LUKE!
HON, TRUSTME IN THE REAL WORLD, THAT IS— THE DARK SIDE!

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Off. Barbara Schmacher	564-5471	Midge Marino	927-5651

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Gay Businesses Are Dying...And It's A Good Thing

By Matthew Burlingame
MGW Editor

Over the last several weeks, I have come face to face with a number of things, places and events that have been pushing the belief that the GLBTQIWTF community is slowly fading away into suburban hetero-acceptance. This is what we have so lovingly deemed as being "Post-Gay."

The first of these incidents came when I first heard tell that the Open Book was indeed closing. For me, it was sad to see happen, as when I first started working in the community there was rarely a day where I didn't stop in. And I always saw at least two or three people that I knew (and liked) hanging out there. To me it truly was a place where as it says in the *Cheers* Theme song "everybody knows your name."

But in the past few years I've only stopped by there once every couple months. The main reason being the standard small bookstore vs. corporate bookstore argument—the same books are less expensive elsewhere and in the fifth year of a Bush economy, entertainment expenses are a luxury most of us can't really afford. Particularly while we are saving for our future as Social Security will be a long forgotten novelty by the time I get to retirement age.

While I still refuse to shop from places that are anti-gay, I often find myself going to more gay-friendly, rather than gay-owned businesses. Mostly because I don't want to pay so damn much. There are many businesses, from shops on Castro to independent restaurants, to novelty shops—you name it—that have high prices and use the argument that we should be willing to pay more if it means we are keeping gay-owned businesses open. That's called supporting our community.

Um...no...having to pay large mark-ups at places just because they are gay owned is called "gouging" and is nothing more than making a fast buck off your communities moral obligation to support one another—especially when that business does little or nothing to give back, donate, sponsor or even make an appearance at community fundraisers and events.

I also get pissy about organizations that raise fundraiser costs so high that you can't afford to give if you wanted to, and thereby exclude youth and low-income community members from attending. But that's another article for another time...maybe for after June 11.

My point is I don't appreciate people crying about lack of community support when they won't even be a full participant in the community or even attempt to keep me a loyal customer with anything more than a guilt trip. If I'm expected to pay more, I at least want to know that some of it will being recirculated through my community.

The second post-gay moment came to me as I was listening to an actor saying he felt bad for gay kids today having so much acceptance. He remembered years ago when everything was underground and dangerous and everything was spoken in code around straight people. He went on to say how gay kids of today will grow up without a sense of common connection because they will have no battle to unify them. For a brief moment, I actually found myself agreeing with him.

I came into the community on the tail end of the type of forced secrecy he remembers—my teen years and early 20's were much like that. Keeping it all hidden, writing to pen pals in code, keeping my writing hidden from my family, and learning to hone my gaydar in hopes of finding anyone else like myself.

But my true activism days started a mere year before Ellen came out. For the older set there was Stonewall; for me there was *Ellen*. Even if it only lasted a year on TV, the moment Ellen Degeneres said "I'm gay" into that airport microphone, I turned into a big ol' blubbering girl and felt like we had finally delivered one of the biggest, hardest blows to het-hate possible.

After a few moments of agreeing with the actor about the good ol' days, it sunk in what I was agreeing to. I was saying that I would like to turn back the clock on us being oppressed and living in fear so we have a greater sense of unity. Oh, hell no!

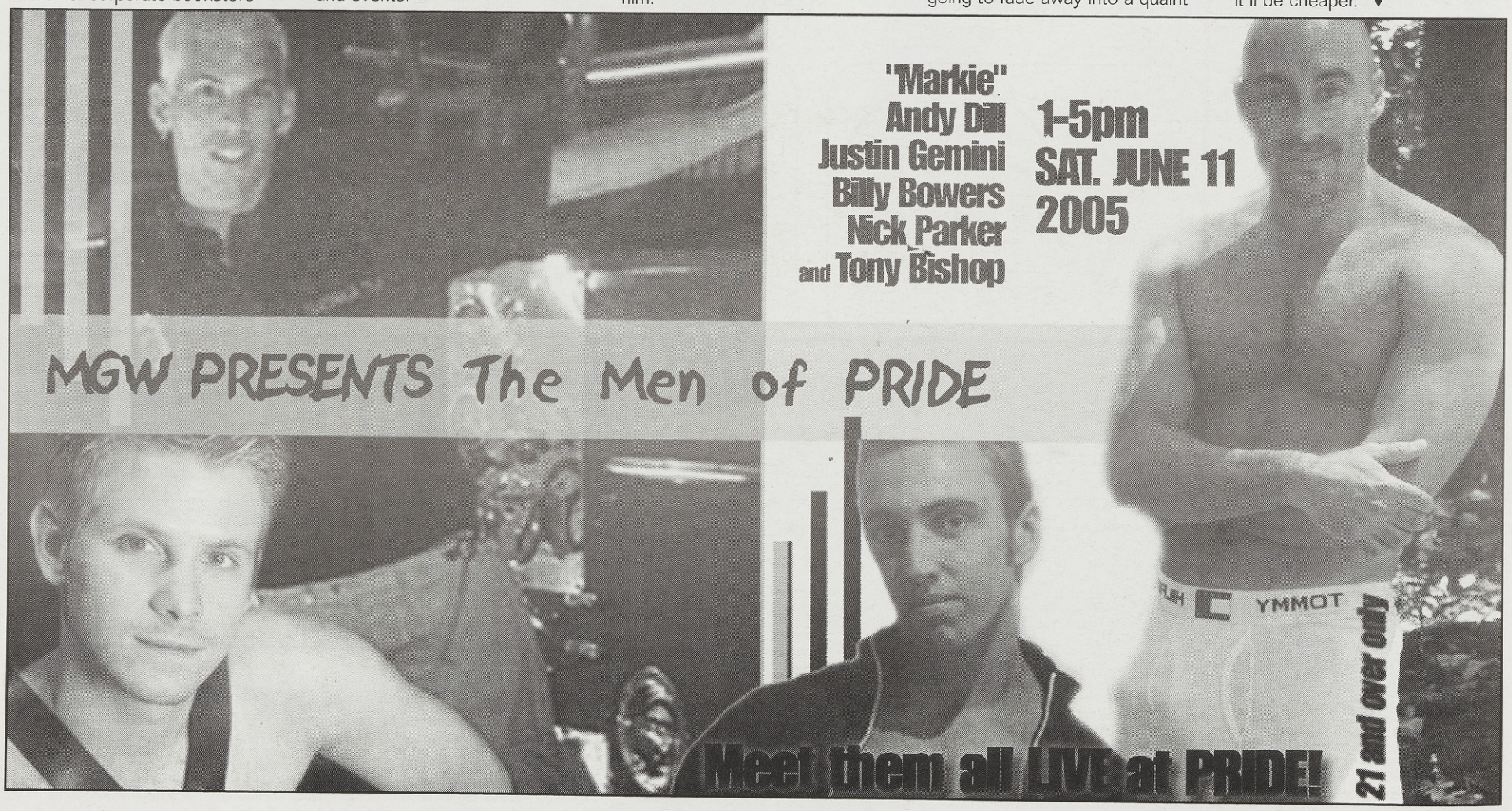
It was then in a flash that I saw our community's future fall into place—that is assuming we are able to win equality and not have the government try to find a way to "biologically" cure us.

If—sorry, *when*—we win equality, most of our community is going to fade away into a quaint memory...like...soul food. Instead of gay restaurants, there will be gay-themed restaurants. Pride fairs will dwindle, mothers will no longer tremble in fear on Coming Out Day, and everyone will talk openly on the Day of Silence. And even gay newspapers will yellow and crumble into the past.

And when they do, I am going to be sad, but instead of mourning a loss, I am going to remember that this means *we won*. We did our jobs, we fought the good fight, we refused to stay in the closet and we kicked the bigots butts! However...regardless of our victories with AB 19, ACA 3 and SCA 1, we are still in the thick of the battle.

But as we win the hearts, minds and marketing strategies of more and more allies and their businesses, we are now passed the point of wanting to go bankrupt to "pay for gay." It's a reality that all small gay businesses are having to face, but, that all large gay businesses faced and prepared for years ago.

Still...I will miss knowing that the Open Book will be there when I buy my yearly Colt calendar, put up a Lambda Players poster and need a new rainbow sticker because mine was torn off again by some fanatic. But, that's the price we pay for equality. At least it'll be cheaper. ▼



SPOKANE MAYOR TAKES LEAVE FROM OFFICE

Spokane mayor Jim West announced he will leave the mayor's office to defend himself against allegations of child molestation and claims that he offered city jobs to men he met in a gay chat room. Allegations are that West abused two boys while he was a sheriff's deputy and Boy Scout leader in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

West said he is the victim of persecution and hysteria. But, as he made his announcement new allegations came out of him offering city jobs to two young men he met through the gay chat site—and that one of them briefly accepted a city appointment.

"Three victims of Mayor Jim West's predatory behavior have already come forward and, based on what we know about pedophiles, it's almost certain there are many more," said NGLTF Executive Director Matt Foreman.

ARAUJO MURDER TRIAL WILL BE RETRIED

Jury selection began in the retrial of three men charged with the murder of San Francisco Bay Area transgender teenager, Gwen Araujo.

The trio, Michael Magidson, Jose Merel and Jason Cazares, were tried last summer, but the jury could not reach a decision on first-degree murder charges. Lawyers for Magidson and Merel argued that their clients should not be found guilty of a premeditated crime because they reacted with spontaneous rage when they learned the girl they had both had sex with was biologically male. Many observers were disgusted by the use of the so-called "transgender panic defense" and even more so by its apparent success.

Araujo's death in October 2002 shocked the country's LGBT community and reverberated throughout California. Exposed as biologically male during a drunken party at the home of Jose Merel, Araujo was attacked by the men, who beat her, kicked her, smashed her head in with a frying pan and eventually strangled her to death with a rope. According to a fourth man, Jaron Nabors, Araujo pleaded for her life, but her cries were ignored. The alleged killers drove her body to the edge of the Sierras and buried her in a shallow grave.

Nabors agreed to testify against the others in exchange for a manslaughter charge, which carries a lighter sentence.

GAY MEN'S BRAINS DIFFERENT FROM STRAIGHT MEN'S

Gay men's brains respond differently from those of heterosexual males when exposed to a sexual stimulus, researchers have found. The homosexual men's brains responded more like those of women when the men sniffed a chemical from the male hormone testosterone.

"It is one more piece of evidence ... that is showing that sexual orientation is not all learned," said Sandra Witelson, an expert on brain anatomy and sexual orientation at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada.

OPENLY GAY ATHLETE WINS ANOTHER U.K. POWERLIFTING TITLE

One of the United Kingdom's highest-ranking openly gay athletes has won his first British title in powerlifting.

Chris Morgan took first place at the British Championship Final this weekend, lifting a massive 242.5 kilos (534 pounds), according to OutSports.com. He is now qualified for the European and world championships, which take place later this year.

The result comes after an injury setback for Morgan, who says he is "delighted" to have won.

"It was a complete surprise to find myself competing for the British title, especially after all my injury problems earlier this year," he said. "My aim going into the British Final was solely to qualify for the European and world championships."

However, it is not the first title Morgan has won. He is the current holder of the silver medal in the World Drug-Free Powerlifting Championship, as well as countless Gay Games records and medals. ▼

MGW is looking for a news writer. If you have a passion for news, email us at mgweditor @mgwnews.com

STONEWALL WAS A DRAG

By M.A. Ross/MGW Staff

As if Fridays wasn't fun enough at Faces. Last Friday (5/6/05) I had the, pleasure of attending Drag Queen Bingo at Faces video bar. Sponsored by The Stonewall Democratic Club and hosted by drag "linebacker" (her words not mine...) Taryn Thru Ya. She not only hosted the event, she was also the evenings entertainment between bingo games. Ms. Taryn performed quite a few numbers that evening and each costume change more amazing than the last. Also spotted that evening was MGW's very own Sam Catalano, who spent most of the evening preaching to potential converts about joining The Stonewall Democratic Club. There were lots of fabulous prizes to be won that evening. It was the ladies who won most of the prizes that evening, which wasn't surprising as they out numbered the men two to one. All and all it was a good time for a good cause and I'm looking forward to the next one. ▼

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AB 19: They're Voting On Us

By Laurie McBride MGW/Staff

On Tuesday, April 26, AB 19 passed the Judiciary Committee of the California State Assembly. That's its first step in the legislative process on its way, hopefully, to the Governor's desk.

The "Religious Freedom and Marriage Equality" Act, as it is known, is about us, our right to marry, and our right to all the rights and benefits, as well as duties, obligations and responsibilities of marriage.

AB 19 passed on a party line vote which is no surprise. The meeting room, which is one of the largest in the building, was packed. It was the typical us-versus-them thing: our families versus their values.

But there were surprises: one really, really good, and one very interesting surprise.

The really, really good surprise is the level of support for this bill among Democrats. Every single Democratic member of the Assembly Judiciary Committee is a co-author on the bill. That has never happened before. In years past, our good bills have usually gotten out of committee fairly easily—and almost always on a party line vote. Occasionally two or more members of a particular committee would be a co-author. But *all* of the Democratic committee members—six out of six—including the Chair of the Committee? That's amazing.

The second surprise of the day was the legalistic tone of the opposition. Gone, mostly, were the ravings about "the most dangerous lifestyle in America" and the "traditional" marriage—except for Assemblyman Tim Leslie, who can't help himself. He's a Republican from the most conservative parts of Placer and Sacramento counties.)

There was no ranting or raving. No thumping of little black books. Our opponents are now singing from a legal hymnal—and we would be wise to listen carefully to the lyrics.

WHAT THEY SAID: Boiled down, they are saying that the legislature has "no authority" to consider legislation on marriage. Proposition 22 was passed by the people, and is still the law of the land. The only way to change the law, as defined under Prop. 22, is to challenge it in the courts or by going back to the people and putting the question to them again.

This is wrong. First, there is a growing body of judicial opinion that Prop. 22 was narrowly drafted to ban the recognition of marriages performed outside of California. Leno's bill deals specifically with marriages inside California.

Secondly, just this March, San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer ruled that Prop. 22—as well as the underlying law limiting marriage to a man and a woman—is unconstitutional.

WHAT THEY MEAN: Of course facts never get in the way of our opponents. Their new strategy focuses on Prop. 22 and "the will of the people." Anyone supporting marriage equality is "against the will of the people" and "against marriage."

Assemblyman Ray Haynes added for emphasis, "the courts are nuts." Ah. We're back to activist judges and the judicial war on religion. Supporting marriage equality is "against God." It's so simple when put like that.

And that, of course, is the point. Our opponents are changing their tune so they can harmonize with the larger national anthem: secular government, especially "activist judges", are anti-God, anti-people, and anti-'values'. By changing their rhetoric, their main themes are echoed every time a neo-Nazi commentator or politician or preacher opens his or her mouth.

Assemblyman Mark Leno

They hope to ignite public anger, and then exploit it…at our expense. Again.

WHAT WE'RE DOING: We're fighting for equality—not "gay" marriage. There is nothing "lesbian" or "gay" about the marriage rights we are asking for. We don't want anything different under the law.

Secondly, AB 19 is about religious freedom. Freedom of all religious officials to recognize—or not—our relationships, to perform weddings...or not. Many religious officials, from all faiths, want to perform our weddings. They don't believe the state should be in the business of deciding who they can marry. To make this point absolutely and perfectly clear, Mark Leno named his bill "The Religious Freedom and Marriage Equality" Act.

WHAT'S NEXT: AB 19 has to jump through several more hurdles before it reaches the Governor's desk. Once there, the Governor would have to sign it for it to become law. That's not a certain thing. The pressure on The Governor to veto it will be enormous. We will have to work hard to exert equal pressure to sign it.

BEYOND AB 19: A "new" coalition of the same old bigots has just formed to gather signatures for another anti-gay initiative. It's expected to be on the ballot next year, asking the California public if they want to enshrine anti-gay bias in the California constitution. The answer they give isn't certain either. Our opponents will be working overtime to fan bigotry and fear. We'll have to work even harder to get out the word that equality is the most fundamental American value of all.

How the votes stacked up: AB 19, the Religious Freedom and Marriage Equality Act was authored by Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), one of *six* openly gay or lesbian members of the California State Legislature.

AB 19 passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee 6-3, on a party-line vote. Every Democratic member of the Committee is also a co-author on the bill.

Sacramento's own Dave Jones is Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Jones told MGW that he signed on as a co-author because "AB 19 addresses a grievous inequality in California law. Gays and lesbians in California are currently deprived of a fundamental right to marry."

The other Aye votes were Assemblymembers John Laird (openly gay legislator from Santa Cruz), Noreen Evans (D-Napa), Lloyd Levine (D-Van Nuys), Sally Leiber (D-Mountain View), and Cindy Montanez (D-San Fernando).

The No votes were: Assemblymembers Tom Harman (R-Orange County), Ray Haynes (R-Riverside), and Tim Leslie (R-too close to home). ▼

City Of Sacramento Board & Commission Openings:

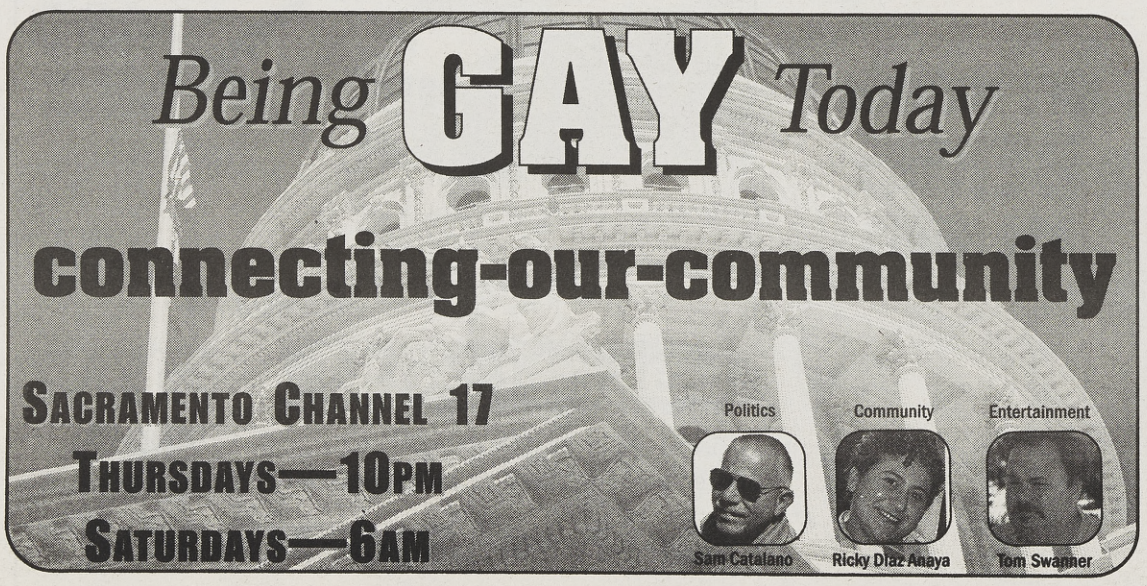
- Sacramento Army Depot Redevelopment Advisory Committee (3 openings) Closes 5/20
- Capitol Area Development Authority Governing Board (1 opening) Closes 5/20
- Small Business Development & Employment Advisory Board (3 openings)
- Stockton Blvd. Redevelopment Area Committee (4 openings) Closes 5/20

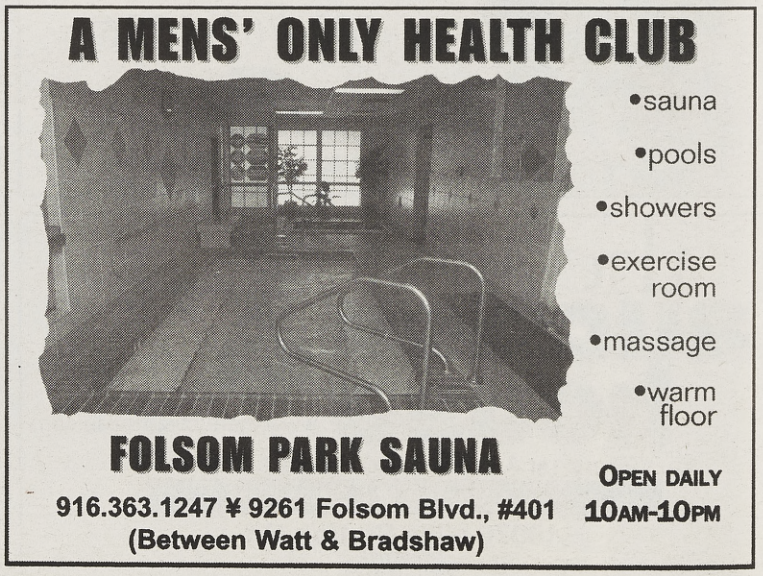
cityofsacramento.org/clerk/boards

County Of Sacramento Board or Commission Openings:

- Sacramento Environmental Commission (1 openings) Filing Period: 5/24-6/23
- Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Programs (2 openings) Open Filing
- Youth Coalition (6 openings) Open Filing
- Civil Service Commission (1 opening) Filing Period: 5/16-5/27
- Sacramento Metropolitan Art Commission (2 openings) Open Filing
- Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee (1 opening) Open Filing
- Carmichael Community Planning Advisory Council (1 openings) Filing closes 5/27
- Mission Oak Recreational & Park District (2 openings) Filing Close: 5/27

To review the complete list, go directly to the websites listed above. Website: www.sccob.saccounty.net/pages/boards





What Does Pride Mean To You?

BY ED KELLEY/MGW STAFF

Evan Alporque
Imperial Court Prince
Long Beach

Pride in general represents community, fellowship and fun. The fun part of pride is the diversity and the expression of individuality.

Raj Lal
Productions Operator
Sacramento

Sac Pride makes me very comfortable and secure. I am very happy at Pride with my "family" surrounding me. Southside Park provides that location.

Steven Crawford
Hotel Room Service
Palm Springs

The one thing I love about Pride is that it brings everyone out for total diversity. The joy on everyone's faces reflect who they really are.

Aleska Manila
Miss Gay Seattle
Seattle

Pride is a celebration of diversity, a celebration of life in all its forms. The environment is always better each year with local entertainers.

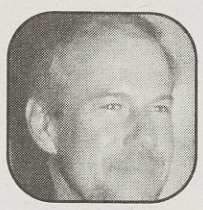
Robert Vanthof
Owner Travel Agency
British Columbia

Pride in British Columbia expresses community unity! Being able to express who and what we represent. In Canada it's a federal law that recognizes legal marriages!

Do you have a question for speak out? Email it to us at MGWeditor@mgwnews.com

Reach Out and Touch Someone

BY DAVID WARPNESS MGW/STAFF



Overcoming an unscrupulous reputation...a passion for charitable causes...a mission to create more understanding between gay and straight communities... being distributed at a children's theme park?

Confused? Put on your pink or lavender colored glasses, keep reading and soon everything will become a little clearer.

Some years ago Terry Ashcraft and Erik Whedbee were looking for a gay-friendly lawyer in Sacramento. The two quickly found that there was no comprehensive guide in which gay-friendly businesses could advertise their services. After talking to friends about their frustration they heard many stories of others in the community that also had need for a comprehensive guide to gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses. Instead of building a barn and putting on a show—which is what most of us would have done—they hatched a plan to create such a guide.

Overcoming an unscrupulous reputation. The pair, along with businessman TJ Bruce, started to develop and plan a gay yellow pages but there was one major obstacle that had to be overcome. In the not so distant past of this plan being developed, a gay yellow pages had been in operation in Sacramento. It sold ads, published one issue and then sold ads for a second issue, but never produced the book, leaving many businesses burned and hesitant to spend money on another gay yellow pages.

Despite this obstacle, Ashcraft and Whedbee, with passion, commitment and faith, quit their day jobs. Together they convinced local business owners they were serious about creating a lasting product and the Valley Rainbow Pages were born, first as the website valleyrainbowpages.com, and now as the website and a full color annual guide with a print run of 15,000 copies.

A passion for charitable causes. Cassandra Davis, who does marketing and design for the Valley Rainbow Pages, clearly states about the owners, "They really care. They are the best people to work with." Citing many of the events/groups sponsored by the Valley Rainbow Pages including the Lambda Awards, the Men's Chorus, and the Stonewall Democrats to name just a few. Davis and Bruce make it clear that the "yellow pages" of the book fund the "white pages", which is the community resource guide. The guide has information on everything from fostering and adopting children to information on gay sports teams, coming out groups, PFLAG, gay/straight school alliances, non-profits, and the list goes on.

"Citing many of the events and groups sponsored by the Valley Rainbow Pages including the Lambda Awards, the Men's Chorus, and the Stonewall Democrats to name just a few."

"It's not just about the bottom line," says Bruce. "Erik and Terry make a living, keep the book going and the rest they give back [to the community]."

A mission to create more understanding between the GLBT and straight communities. Not every business that buys space in the book is gay owned. Some never thought of themselves as gay-friendly but then they had never been given the opportunity, or had the idea on their own, to advertise to the GLBT community. As stated on the Valley Rainbow Pages website, "We are proud to help members and friends of the community connect with services, businesses and organizations where they can feel comfortable and welcomed. Our work has led to an increase in awareness of the presence of the gay community in Sacramento, and we hope it has encouraged more people and businesses to be open-minded."

Of course there are still those businesses owners who refuse to advertise in a gay publication. Davis points out, "If we only advertise a specific location of a franchise operation, take note, because the locations not advertised often times made a conscious choice to not participate in the book."

This year's book debuts in June at Sacramento Pride where it will be distributed as it has for the past several years.

If you miss it there you can pick one up at Fairytale Town, the Sacramento Zoo or if it is more convenient The Depot or Hot Rods to name just a few of the many locations throughout the Sacramento Region where the Valley Rainbow Pages are distributed.

This year the Valley Rainbow Pages will even be distributed at Los Angeles Pride as a way of letting others know Sacramento has a viable GLBT community. Of course the most convenient way for some to access the information provided is the online version which has discount coupons you can print right at home, maps of where the advertisers are located and links to their web sites.

Persons and businesses wanting to advertise in the Valley Rainbow Pages need to act now as this year's book is in the process of closing out and going to print.

"It will be 24-hour workdays for the next few weeks,' Davis said. Advertisers can get in the online version anytime throughout the year.

The Valley Rainbow Pages also offers graphic design for business cards, posters, banners, event programs, websites and other business related design work throughout the year. ▼

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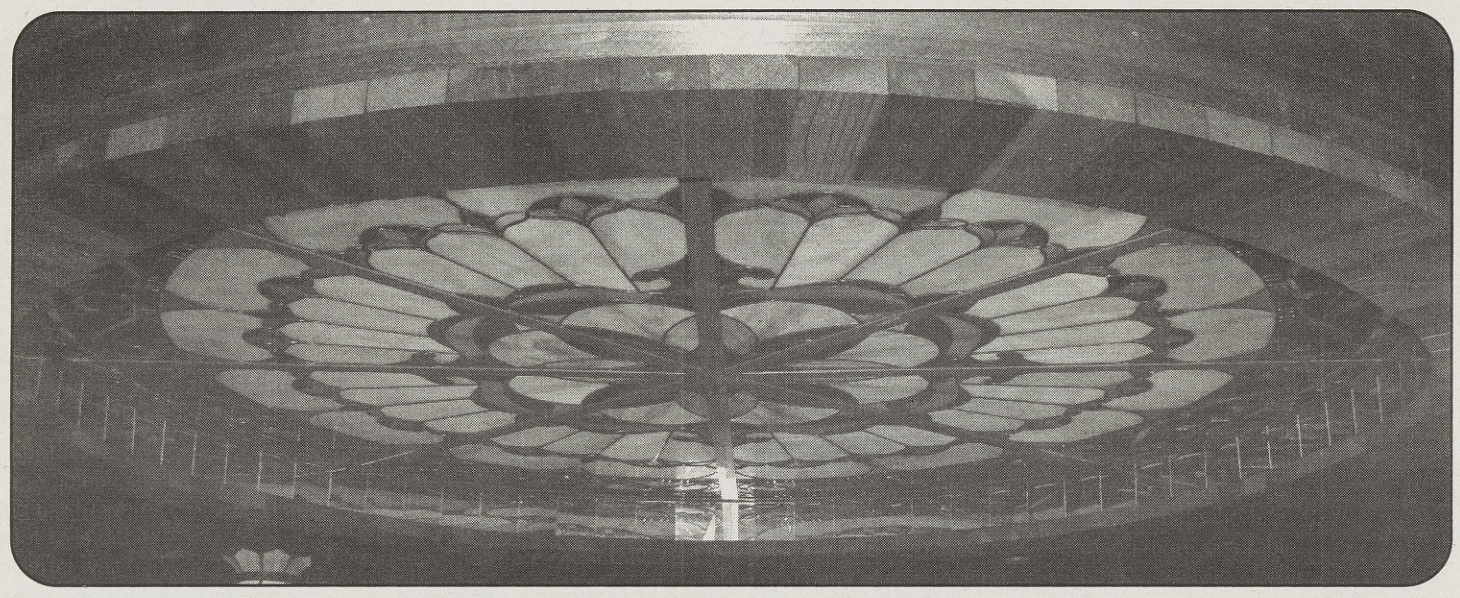
Feel the Vibration: The Aviator

By Katrina Torres/MGW Staff



The Avitor Restaurant on Freeport ads a different dinner perspective for diners.

I like big, obnoxious, heavy things that make so much noise that they blow your hair back, smudge your mascara (yours too, guys) and make your eardrums throb. And I ain't talkin' about Madge, either! You all know how I feel.

How many of you have stood in awe at the sight of a cruise liner casting off, steamers cascading, balloons popping, champagne and laughter flowing, and best of all, that long, deep, alto, bone-quivering air horn that reverberates off your soul and sends a slightly dizzying shiver all the way down to the lint between your toes? And those roaring locomotive engines, how about those, huh? Have you ever been secretly glad that the guy in front of you was the last one to make it across the tracks before the gates came down, giving you a front row seat? And what about the view from the lobby at the Sacramento Airport, where the only thing more thrilling than seeing one of those huge, screaming heavy metal monsters take off was watching one land all in one piece, and then realizing that you'd been holding your breath the whole time?

Well, I admit it. I shiver over ships and trains and planes and, as often as possible, over good food. And if I can combine any of the two, I will. That's how I ended up at Aviator Restaurant, located at the Sacramento Executive Airport, directly under the conning tower.

I'd heard that the food was good, and that the owner was a trained chef. That's always a good sign. And there is nothing more romantic and exciting than cradling a glass of good red wine while watching a 4-seater flying beast battle strong headwinds and hit the blacktop bouncing, and then cruise gracefully right under the huge plate-glass window you're sitting behind. With the runway lights broadcasting, a candle burning and the stained-glass skylight glowing—it's even better at night.

" I went back with a friend for dinner and again, for lunch. We shared the Seafood Linguini; al dente pasta smothered in a sauce of white wine and fresh basil, some nice sized prawns, sea scallops, and tomatoes, with a sprinkling of fresh ground pepper and parmesan, and actually fought over the last bite—I let her win. I'm not stupid.) "

With the seating options; everything from the wet bar and a banquet room, to group seating and cozy enclosed booths, you can find a seat to match any event or mood you wish to evoke.

I liked the place right off the bat. It was like another world. A world of Leonardo Da Vinci and Howard Hughes and the flying machines. I had to stop and breathe it in.

With brass accents, lots of shiny wooden tables with inset aerial maps, a beautiful stained-glass skylight, and an excellent view of the tarmac, I was titillated by the unspoken promise that I would be entertained by more than just the food.

Huge wooden tri and bi-wing model aircraft hung from the ceiling. Not the cheap plastic kind, but the kind lovingly handcrafted by aficionados who really know and understand the intricacies and the beauty of fastening together some pieces of solid, earthbound material and then applying the will and the passion to make them throw themselves from the ground into the air to soar like a bird.

OK, so I like planes. I even flew one once in my younger, wilder days. I won't ride in one, however, since December 14th, 1992 (my Hawaiian Adventure Story is coming as soon as my therapist thinks it's safe to talk about it), but I still like to watch them, and they still give me a thrill.

Maybe it was the comfort level, I don't know. The décor, with its individual Tiffany lamps, warm wood, polished brass, and glancing skylight hues made me feel safe and all mellow inside. I wandered in about noon, and enjoyed the lunch selections on my first and third visits.

Choosing from housemade soups, salads, juicy looking Signature Burgers, pastas and even a luncheon New York Steak for $9.95 or less, I went with the soup and salad from the salad bar the first time. The soup was "Creamy, chunky, veggie, bowtie pasta soup" and despite its somewhat unwieldy name, it was pretty tasty.

While the selections from the salad bar could have been a little more imaginative, the meal was very reasonable for the price I paid and I left satisfied.

I went back with a friend for dinner and again, for lunch. We shared the Seafood Linguini; al dente pasta smothered in a sauce of white wine and fresh basil, some nice sized prawns, sea scallops, and tomatoes, with a sprinkling of fresh ground pepper and parmesan, and actually fought over the last bite (I let her win. I'm not stupid.) Wendy had the Grilled Salmon with Mango Salsa, which passed with rave reviews, and being a sucker for blue cheese and all things that make me pucker, I tried the Ribeye Steak with Blue Cheese Sauce.

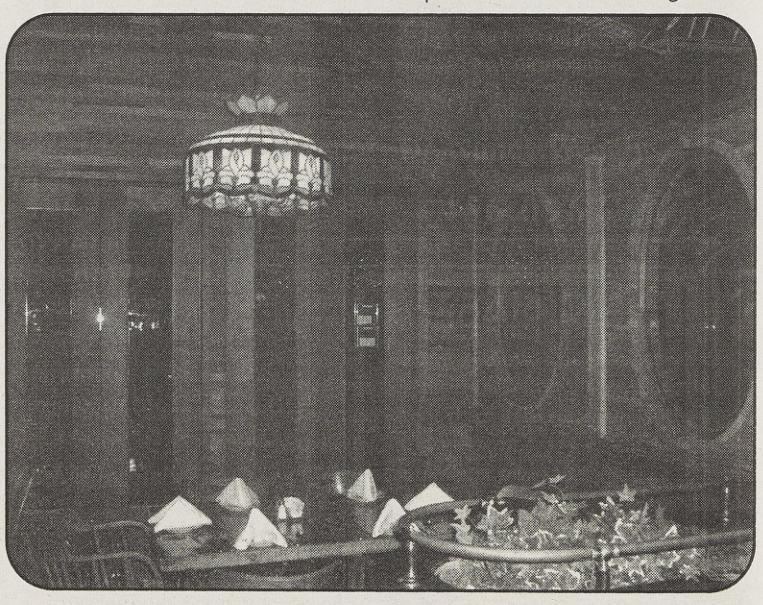
I ordered extra sauce to go, to have with my leftovers the next day. I knew I would never be able to comfortably eat the whole thing (I save that for other arenas where my expertise will be more appreciated.)

The garlic mashed potatoes and freshly grilled vegetables (and there's no faking fresh) were exquisite. Even the hot rolls did it for me, and our wonderful waitperson brought us plenty of butter (my weakness) and stayed on top of the situation with out being obtrusive.

During my second lunch foray, I tried the California Burger, after strenuously debating with myself between the Cobb Salad, the Grilled Shrimp Caesar Salad and the "Inflight Scramble", a mélange of scrambled eggs with bacon, avocado, Ortega chilies, jack and cheddar cheeses, olives, green onions and sour cream. I was happy with my choice.

The California Burger was a fat patty of juicy beef with Pepper Jack cheese; a spicy sauce; three big, fat strips of excellent, smoky bacon; ripe avocado; crisp lettuce, onion, tomato and pickle. I had my choice of accouterments with my burger, and chose the onion rings, which were nice and crisp.

My favorite part of my burger experience (besides eating it)



The main dining room of The Aviator

"Monday through Friday between 7 am (shudder) and 3 pm (much more reasonable) you can get a pretty decent breakfast. Eggs, pancakes, omelets, etc. All the good stuff. I heard a pilot (crisp uniform and everything) raving about the breakfasts Aviator serves. He said he stops there all the time (I guess pilots can stop in for breakfast too, eh?) I have to admit, by his rather healthy girth alone he convinced me!"

was that my lovely waitperson actually asked how I wanted my burger cooked, which is rare nowadays with having to dine in the shadow of various unfortunate food events of the past. I'll take my chances. I like my food, like my life, over easy, a little risky and always ready for some more heat.

Monday through Friday between 7am (shudder) and 3pm (much more reasonable) you can get a pretty decent breakfast. Eggs, pancakes, omelets, etc. All the good stuff. I heard a pilot (crisp uniform and everything) raving about the breakfasts Aviator serves. He said he stops there all the time (I guess pilots can stop in for breakfast too, eh?) I have to admit, by his rather healthy girth alone he convinced me!

My next visit will be to try the Sunrise Special for $2.95. That happens between 7am and 9am Monday through Friday, and consists of two eggs, three pancakes and two pieces of bacon or sausage. The weekend breakfast looked like a pretty good deal too. OK, so getting me up early on a weekend is a little like pulling teeth, but since my teeth were happy every time I went, I expect that they will get around to enjoying an omelet while watching a sleek Learjet come sliding in at sunrise. At least I hope so. The thought makes me smile.

Aviator Restaurant is open 7am until 3pm, and again from 5pm until 9pm Friday through Saturday. They aren't open for dinner on Sunday (I learned the hard way—call first.) I'm a little iffy on the Sunday breakfast hours; they've changed and I haven't been able to pin it down, but if you call them at 424-1728, I'm sure they can fill you in on the in-flight menu. Get it? Airplanes? Airports? In-flight menu? Sigh. Forget it. Goodnight, John boy.▼

Aviator Restaurant
6151 Freeport Blvd.
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916.424.1728

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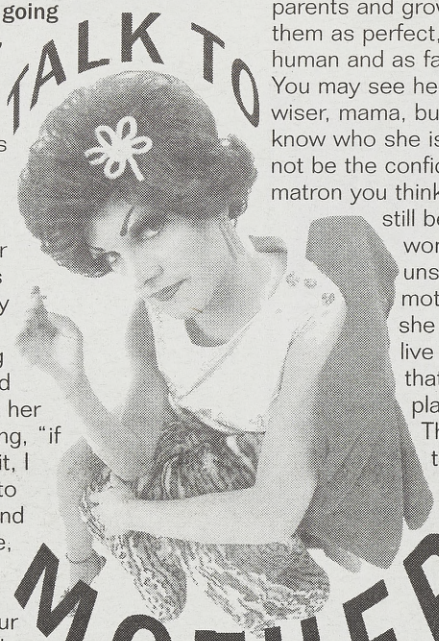
TALK TO MOTHER



Dear Mom, When I was 18, my mother came into my room to talk with me. She said she knew I was into guys and that she loved me very much and that she will always love me. However, I was never to bring my "friends" over because she didn't want "those people" in her home. I moved out of her home a year later and never returned. I've visited her home many times over since, but during the 14 years I've been independent, she has only visited my home once. OK, twice, but the second time she wasn't looking for me. So, this Mother's Day I have no plans to visit my mom. In fact, I'd much rather spend some time that day with another woman around my mother's age, whom I've grown to love very much and respect as a mentor. Sometimes I even secretly desire in my heart that my mother were more like my mentor. This won't happen though because if my real mother ever found out I was two-timing her with another mother on Mother's Day, it would hurt her. I don't want to hurt my mother, but I feel my mother hurts me. It's been over two months since I saw her last, and I do miss her. She lives just down the street from me, yet, I don't intend on seeing her anytime soon. What the heck is going on? Signed, Rebellious Son

Baby, this is a problem. But it's not your problem it's your mama's. It's clear that by saying "don't bring them around me", it was her way of saying, "if I don't see it, I don't have to admit it." And chances are, like a good boy, you honored your mama's wishes. After all, no one wants to hurt their mama. Someone said not long ago that you need a license to drive, hunt or fish, but any schmuck can be a parent. It's true, 'cause I ended up with many kids, but still take to bus everywhere. You have to remember that as much as we idolize our parents and grow up thinking of them as perfect, they're just as human and as fallible as you or I. You may see her as your older, wiser, mama, but you may not know who she is inside. She may not be the confident family matron you think she is. She may still be a scared woman inside, unsure how to be a mother, or maybe she is still trying to live up to the ideal that her parents placed on her? Think about it. But that aside, it is still no excuse to shut you out, or make demands that you be anyone other than who you are when you are around her. It's this type of behavior that makes many of my GLBT kids find their own definition of family. Maybe that is something you are doing with this other mama-figure? Instead of forgetting your mother this Mother's Day. Why not, give her a card with the gift of truth? Stand up for yourself and tell her that you will no longer hide who you are so she doesn't have to deal with it, and then tell her who you are. Then, if she is willin' to to meet you at least half way, then take the time to find out who she is. Unconditional love is a two way street. May you both find each other! **Love, Mom.** ▼

Talk to Mother is for entertainment purposes only. Neither MGW nor the author can be held liable for any injury or loss, perceived or actual, resulting from the above-mentioned entertainment. Questions to mother can be sent to MGWeditor@mgwnews.com, Subject line: "TALK TO MOTHER"

Tarotscopes

By Jessica Rabbit
MGW Staff

Dear Jessica, My boyfriend is a Scorpio and so am I. In my last relationship I was with a guy who was always like, "Leave me alone and let me do my thing." But this new relationship demands a lot more of my time and attention, and I'm not used to it. I feel like I'm messing it up because I'm not giving 100%. But it's because I'm scared of getting hurt like before. —Hartsdale, NY

Dear Seeker, You're right- you ARE messing up by holding back in fear rather than opening your hands in love. You are coming up as Death - indicating to me that you really need a major change in behavior. Namely, you need to show up more in this relationship. He is coming up as 7 of Pentacles, which means he is really on the brink of a risky choice to leave you. So, go pull him back from the edge of the cliff so you guys can get on with the business of LOVING. Isn't that what this is supposed to be all about, anyway? Your outcome cards are 10 of wands and 8 of Pentacles, which indicate to be that you will buck up and accept the responsibility of this relationship and also accept that love is WORK. Every day. You have to start to SHOWER him with love in order to help him see that you mean it. Plus, the fact that you're both Scorpios works in your favor here. Be the kind of lover you want him to be to you, and things will improve.

Dear Jessica, I have been in love with this man for 6 months. We're just friends right now, but the other day I told him about my feelings, and he said, "We are exactly where we need to be right now." I took that as a sign that he is taking things slowly, but all my friends think it means he's not interested in taking things farther. What should I do? —Oakland, CA

Dear Seeker, Listen to your heart. You are coming up as the Sun, which tells me you're in your full power right now. I admire that you took the risk of revealing your feelings to him, and you did beautifully with it. He is coming up as 9 of Cups, which tells me that you said exactly what he wanted to hear. But you're right. This WILL move slowly. You have to build the passion and suspense to a level that no one can tolerate before anyone will actually make a move, and what's working against you is the 10 of Swords- dread of disappointment. Don't operate from a place of fear in this- try instead to operate from a place of strength. I see a secure future for this, and all things will come into balance as they should, indicated by your outcome cards: the 10 of Pentacles and Temperance. Just hang on and offer, with love, friendship, trust, loyalty, and a great sense of humor. Those are the qualities he will respond to best. ▼

Jessica Rabbit is a lesbian psychic and tarot reader in the Bay Area. She reads privately for clients over the telephone or in person and can be reached at jessica@sacredtarot.com or via the web at sacredtarot.com. She also reads every Friday night at the White Horse Bar on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Israelite tribe
4 Biblical giants
8 Universe (pref.)
12 Stitchbird
13 Synthetic rubber
14 Table scraps
15 Eg. god of pleasure
16 Tallow (2 words)
18 Madame Bovary
20 Commotion
21 Padded jacket under armor
25 Son of Zeus
29 Dish (2 words)
32 Ganda dialect
33 Agent (abbr.)
34 Indian sacred fig
36 "Blue Eagle"
37 Ravine
39 Immense
41 Swelling
43 State (Ger.)
44 Medieval shield
46 Before (Lat.)
49 Culm (2 words)
55 Fiddler crab genus
56 Snake (pref.)
57 Unfledged bird
58 Centers for Disease Control (abbr.)
59 Love (Lat.)
60 Tooth (Lat.)
61 Exclamation

DOWN
1 Deride
2 Attention-getting sound
3 Raze
4 Amer. Bar Assn. (abbr.)
5 Pigeon
6 Black cuckoo
7 Hindu god of love
8 Banner
9 Yellow ide
10 As written in music
11 Mountain standard time (abbr.)
17 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)
19 Pointed (pref.)
22 End
23 Auricular
24 Rom. historian
26 Build
27 Irish sweetheart
28 Hall (Ger.)
29 Created
30 Old-fashioned oath
31 Beer ingredient
35 Afr. worm
38 Vomiting
40 Drain
42 Amer. Cancer Society (abbr.)
45 Habituated
47 Alternating current/direct current (abbr.)
48 Apiece
49 Tibetan gazelle
50 Revolutions per minute (abbr.)
51 Exclamation
52 Nautical chain
53 Belonging to (suf.)
54 Manuscripts (abbr.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

R	I	D	D		R	O	C		R	A	S	E
I	D	E	E		A	C	H		E	D	A	M
F	E	E	T		D	A	O		G	A	B	I
T	A	P	E	T	I		P	A	L	M	E	R
			S	A	C		A	W	E			
I	N	I	T	I	A	L		E	T	A	A	C
C	A	B			L	I	V			D	A	N
A	B	O	M	A		L	E	C	T	E	R	N
			A	B	D		H	A	E			
L	A	N	N	E	R		I	D	A	L	I	A
E	T	A	T		A	B	C		B	A	B	E
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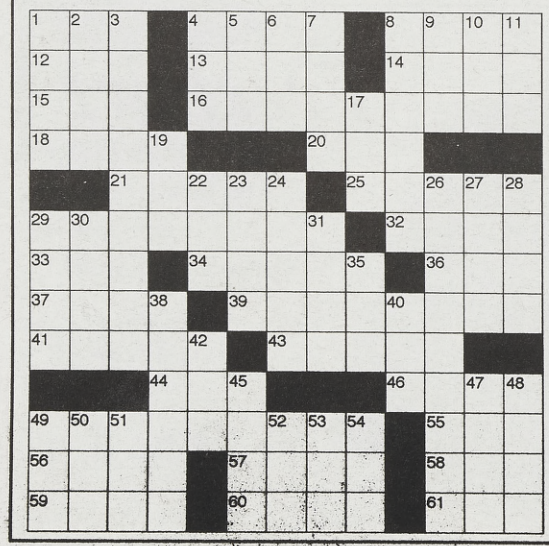


HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A big trip and old friends is just what you need to make you feel refreshed.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) People who have nothing better to do than cause trouble for everyone are on the warpath, don't walk on their path and they will leave you alone.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Patience is more than a virtue, it's a necessity in today's world. Just remember to treat others as you would have them treat you.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) If things have been distant with the one you call your mate, it's only going to get moreso. You need to access the situation with a cold dose of reality and ask yourself, is this truly worth saving? If not, it's OK to let go.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Maybe if you'd take a little more time to see who your real friends are, and stand up to those who you know are talking behind your back, you'd gain the respect you deserve.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Dancing and cuddling may be a good pastime, but it is not a good occupation, get over yourself and get a clue.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Blah, blah, blah, yadda, yadda, yadda. Open your ears and close your mouth for a change.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Sometimes we are on the right path even when it feels like we are on the wrong one. Just keep walking and watch your step. You'll be fine.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Stop and smell the roses, now is as good a time as ever.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) There is a difference between being nuetral and playing both sides. You need to realize this before to decide whether to join the same team again.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You think yer soooooo Bond, James Bond, don't you? Well, most of us gave up kindergarten games when we left school. If you insist on playing them still, be sure you know how to win, or you won't be happy with the outcome.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Art, light and beauty are the words of the day. Every breath you breath is another chance to experience the life blooming around you. Live, Love, laugh and enjoy. It's as good a time as any. ▼

Dynasty and Golden Girls are Campy Delights

DYNASTY

By Tom Swanner MGW Staff & By Brian Judd MGW Staff

Swanner: I think it's amazing how many awful old TV show are coming out on DVD a season at a time. I know this because I keep buying them. I bought *Lost In Space* because when I was seven it was my favorite TV show. I look at it now and it's just awful, but that didn't stop me from buying season two. It's a sickness but every once in a while it's a good thing. I just start watching *Dynasty* Season One and in this case it's different. It's like watching home movies, not that I grew up in a mansion but I loved this show so much when it was on the air now it's like visiting old friends.

Judd: I barely remembered *Dynasty*. I remember that when Grandma had to baby-sit me she'd make me watch *Dynasty*, Dallas and Falcon Crest. And even though I was a bitter young tyke, *Dynasty's* adult themes were a little too much for my four-year-old head to understand. Now it's a different story. I watched the first six episodes back to back. More than five hours of sex, double-crossing and conniving. I couldn't get enough!

Swanner: You were 4 years old...I'm so old. You're right though, it's just so much fun. These people are just mean and rotten to each other. When Blake (John Forsythe) tells his gay son Steven (Al Corley) that he's sorry that the medical association has declared homosexuality normal because if not, he could start the "Steven Carrington Institute of Faggotry", my head was spinning in delight.

Judd: You don't get lines like that anymore! Or how about when Walter Lankershim (Dale Robertson) took Steven to a bordello to set him "straight." That's so funny!

Swanner: I just watched the first couple episodes so I've yet to see that part. When *Dynasty* first came out it was a mid-season replacement, so this first set has only a half of a season (13 episodes) but it's well worth it. No news on when the second season comes out but, Brian, but you'll love it. They replace Steven with someone good looking (cause back then it was taboo for actors to play gay) and then there is the Moldavian massacre and so much more! Hopefully this will get women to wear hats again. And if this does well we may see *The Colby's* released. That starred Charlton Heston and Barbara Stanwick.

Judd: I can't wait to see the arrival of Alexis Morell Carrington Colby Dexter Rowan (Joan Collins). I get giddy just thinking about it. You know what I find so interesting about *Dynasty*? The amount of sex and the language is so much more salacious than what we get on network TV today—and this is coming from a show that's almost a quarter century old. If that isn't proof of our puritanical back-sliding, I don't know what is!

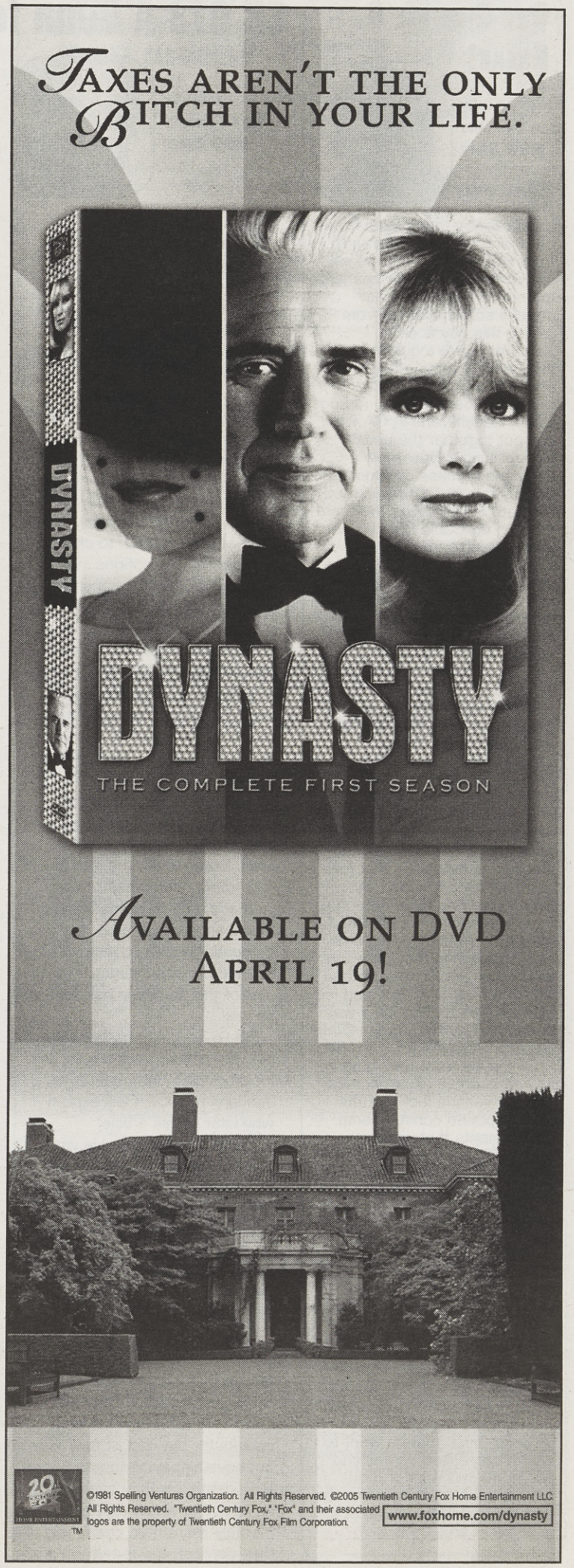
Swanner: Excellent point. I'm looking forward to Alexis' arrival, as well. *Dynasty* is available now in stores and I'll defintely keep a watch for the release of Season Two. ▼▼▼▼▼ out of 5 ▼

GOLDEN GIRLS II

By Michael Shanahan MGW Staff

I'm not a huge fan of TV shows on DVD, especially when they are in constant reruns anyway. But when I got the chance to review *Golden Girls* Season Two on DVD, I jumped at it. I loved the show as a kid, and as I myself creep toward my later years, I love the show even more.

The series follows the characters of Dorothy (Bea Arthur), Blanche (Rue McLanahan), Rose (Betty White), and Sophia (Estelle Getty) through their lives women of the '80s and '90s, discovering life as senior citizens. Each episode of Season Two proves why this show was so popular, with roaringly funny wit and down-home tenderness, it is a *must have* for any DVD collection, and a study guide for when we all reach those golden years ourselves. Run and buy it now! ▼▼▼▼▼ out of 5 ▼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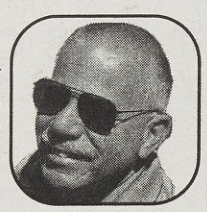
Oh, Give Me A Break!



By Sam Catalano
MGW Staff

Have any of you been reading the column from our friend the Log Cabin guy from Florida? First, let me say upfront that the editor has told me not to make personal attacks so I will refrain from saying this guy is an … ! Second, I have a question: Why are we getting Log Cabin comments from Florida?

Could it be there are no Log Cabin Republicans in CA who can put together the usual Republican lie (you know weapons of mass destruction, healthy forests, clean air, etc., etc., etc.)? Or maybe there are no CA Log Cabin Republicans who have the moral guts or intestinal fortitude to try to defend any of the actions of any of the CA Republican legislators in terms of their unanimous opposition to a single lesbian or gay civil right or benefit. (Remember, not one single CA Republican legislator in the past ten years has voted, in committee or on the floor of the Assembly or Senate, to support one single domestic partner benefit).

Or maybe they are too embarrassed to note that every single anti-gay piece of homophobic hate filled discriminatory piece of dog doodoo that has been proposed in the CA Legislature has been authored by a neo-fascist Republican. Or maybe there is a certain awkwardness when they note that the author of the most hateful initiative harmful to gay and lesbian families and couples was sponsored by Republican State Senator Pete Knight.

Or maybe they are hiding in shame in some closet somewhere over the fact that the two proposed constitutional amendments that were presented to the CA Legislature this year are authored by really, really homophobic Republican members. If the CA Log Cabin Republicans are, in fact, too embarrassed, too ashamed, too disgusted, too irritated, and hopefully too angry and upset to try to defend the CA Republican Party, then I say "congrats!" I understand your shame. I will be happy to assist you in changing your voter registration.

As to Mr. Florida Log Cabin, no, I am not grateful to Emperor bush that he went to war in Iraq based on lies and has murdered tens of thousands of innocent Iraqi women and children in the name of his god. What an … ! ▼

SB 973 A Boon for Some Government Retirees

By Boyce Hinman
MGW Staff

LAMBDA LETTERS PROJECT

The City and County of Sacramento have a larger percentage of state and local government employees and retirees than any other city and county in the state. So SB 973 should be especially interesting to Sacramentans.

This bill was introduced by Senator Sheila Kuehl, Democrat of Los Angeles and is sponsored by Equality California. It would allow some state and local government employees, and some school district employees, who have already retired, to change their retirement options in a way that might benefit them and their domestic partners.

When they retired, some employees chose a retirement plan where all retirement checks stop coming when the retiree dies. These retirees may be able to change that plan to allow monthly payments to continue to their domestic partners, if the retiree dies first. These payments would keep coming for as long at the domestic partner lives. Sometimes, the monthly retirement check might even increase a bit. In some cases, this change would allow the domestic partner to receive state provided health insurance for the rest of the domestic partner's life as well.

SB 973 would only benefit people who retired from a state or local government job prior to January 1, 2001. I will explain why later in this article.

SB 973 affects people who have retired under any of three different retirement programs;

- The State Teachers' Retirement System (CalsTrs)
- The Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS)
- The County Employees Retirement Law of 1937

Under CURRENT law, when people in one of these systems retires they choose one of many retirement options. They can choose to receive retirement checks for the rest of their lives, but have all payments stop upon their death. Or they can choose an option in which they get a monthly retirement check and, if they die first, the former employer sends monthly checks to a beneficiary. The retiree could choose his or her domestic partner as the beneficiary. But actually the retiree could name any person, such as a child, a sibling etc. THE RETIREE AND THE BENEFICIARY DO NOT HAVE TO BE REGISTERED DOMESTIC PARTNERS.

Choosing this second option lowers the payment that the retiree, and his or her named beneficiary will get. The younger the beneficiary is the lower the monthly payments will be.

This second option has another benefit. Under current law, any current employee, or retiree, of a CalPERS agency can get employer provided health insurance for his or her domestic partner. The employee or retiree and partner DO have to be registered with the state as domestic partners to get the insurance benefit. However, if the retirement checks stop coming when the retired employee dies, the health insurance for the retiree's partner ends then also. If a retiree wants to guaranty health insurance for a domestic partner after the retiree dies, it is best to choose an option where retirement checks continue also. Some, but not all of the CalsTrs and 1937 counties provide similar arrangements on health insurance. NOTE: Some local governments contract with CalPers for most things but do not get their health insurance through CalPers. In those cases the rules on health insurance may be a bit different.

Current government or school district employees should seriously consider these issues when deciding what retirement option to choose.

But some people retired from state or local government before January 1, 2001. They may not have chosen an option that allows for continued monthly checks to domestic partner. If SB 973 passes, some of them will get a chance to change their option. They will be able to do so if they meet the following conditions.

1. The retiree and the domestic partner must be registered with the California Secretary of State as domestic partners.

2. The retiree and his or her domestic partner must sign an affidavit that, at the time one of them retired from a state or local government job in California, they would have qualified to register as domestic partners and would have done so if the law permitted it.

(Note: The law permitted it as of January 1, 2001. After this date people could register. So, in its current form, SB 973 helps only those who retired prior to that date. The bill may be amended in a way that will help more people as it goes through the legislature.)

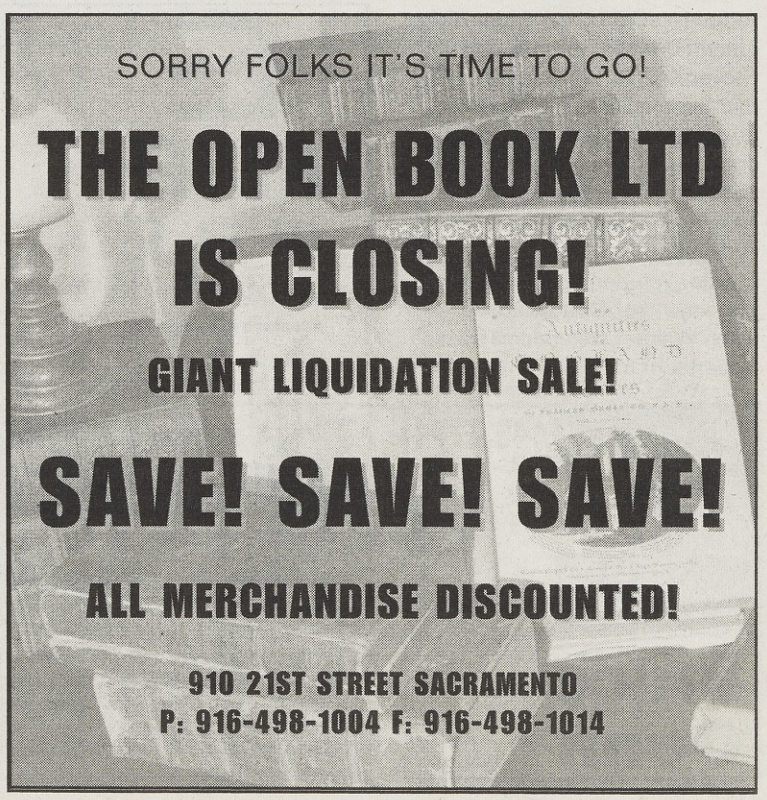
3. The retiree and domestic partner must demonstrate that at least two of the following were true at the time the retirement occurred:

- That they registered as something like California's domestic partnership somewhere outside of California.
- That they jointly owned a home or car or jointly rented a home.
- That they jointly owned a bank account.
- That they jointly or separately paid utility bills at the same residence.

As a substitute for one of the above they could provide a signed affidavit from someone attesting to the fact that the couple lived together at the time of the retirement and would have qualified to register as domestic partners had that been possible at the time of retirement.

So stay tuned. This newspaper will probably let you know if SB 973 is signed into law. If so, and if you meet the above criteria, you may qualify for a better retirement option. ▼

Boyce Hinman is Chief Lobbyist for the Lambda Letters Project



A Frank Discussion on Republican Hypocrisy

By Daniel Roth
Stonewall Democratic Club

I must admit, I am really enjoying watching the political career Spokane, Washington's Republican Mayor James West self-destruct. Mr. West was the epitome of a man's man: Army paratrooper, scuba diver, sheriff's deputy, and political powerbroker. Mr. West used his rugged masculinity and his over compensating heterosexuality as the cornerstone of his political career. In 1982 he was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives and five years later moved up to the state Senate. A social and fiscal conservative, he spent the next 16 years rising in power, until he became the Washington State Senate majority leader in 2003.

Mr. West championed an anti-gay agenda during his tenure as one of the most powerful Republicans in the Washington State Legislature. During his career Mr. West supported a bill that would have barred gays and lesbians from working for schools, day care centers and some state agencies. He voted to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman, and, as Senate majority leader, allowed a bill that would ban discrimination against gays and lesbians to die in committee without a hearing. As Mayor of Spokane, he threatened to veto a measure extending benefits to domestic partners of city employees.

But Mr. West is not quite the man of high moral character and heterosexuality that he espouses in his political record. Just like so many of America's Taliban, when the cameras are rolling Mr. West relied on people's prejudices against gays and lesbians to grab power, but when he thought no one was watching, the good Republican Mayor loved the thing he denounced the most. The Mayor who railed against gays and lesbians to climb up the political latter admitted earlier this month to offering autographed sports memorabilia and a possible City Hall internship to what he thought was an 18-year-old man on the Web site Gay.com. The man was a private computer expert hired by The Spokesman-Review as part of journalism sting operation.

As the news of Mr. West's affinity for barely legal men broke, Mr. West sent city staffers a remorseful e-mail. "I want to sincerely apologize to you personally for the shame I have brought to the Mayor's office and the city," he wrote. "I have visited a gay chat line on the Internet and had relations with adult men. I don't deny that."

Republican Mayor James West

Mr. West's hypocrisy is what makes this story so interesting, and I am enjoying knowing that so many other Republican politicians like Mr. West who preach against civil rights for gays and lesbians by day but have affairs with people of the same sex by night are fearful that they may be the next one to get caught with their hand in the cookie jar. But, let's be honest, hypocrisy is really nothing new to Republican leadership. From the Mayor of Spokane to the President of the United States, Republican officials tell the public what they want to hear during campaigns, but in dark rooms when the lights are off, they just can't keep their hands off the goodies.

Take the role of government. In their platform the Republican Party claims, "We believe that good government is based on a system of limited taxes and spending. Furthermore, we believe that the federal government should be limited and restricted to the functions mandated by the United States Constitution. Many Democrats, however, believe the government has a right to claim the money earned by working Americans. They fight any attempt to return the balance of power from Washington to individual families and businesses."

Sounds good. Small government, lower taxes, but when you look at the facts, the Republicans in Congress and President Bush are hypocrites just like Mayor James West.

According to the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, President Bush has presided over the largest overall increase in inflation-adjusted federal spending since Lyndon B. Johnson. Even after excluding spending on defense and homeland security, Bush is still the biggest-spending president in 30 years. Total government spending grew by 33 percent during Bush's first term. The federal budget as a share of the economy grew from 18.5 percent of GDP on Clinton's last day in office to 20.3 percent by the end of Bush's first term.

The Republican Congress has enthusiastically assisted the budget bloat. Inflation-adjusted spending on the combined budgets of the 101 largest programs they vowed to eliminate when they took over Congress in 1995 has grown by 27 percent. The difference between a Democratic President and a Republican is Bill Clinton actually paid the federal government's bills on time while Republican President Bush and the Republicans in Congress are having a huge party, spending at will, and driving up the deficit. They are planning the largest "dine-and-dash" in the history of the United States, giving away tax breaks to the rich, spending money on pet projects, and leaving the next generation with the bill.

From their personal life to the professional votes, the Republican Party has become wrought with corruption and hypocrisy. Mr. West's political career may come to an end on its own, but we have an obligation to turn our country upside down during the 2006 mid-term elections. Because as much as I love watching the press take out a homophobic hypocritical mayor, booting the Republican Party to minority status in the United States Congress will bring a permanent smile. ▼

Daniel Roth is President of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

DO WE ACCEPT OURSELVES ENOUGH TO GET MARRIED?

By Matthew Tsien MGW Staff

As many know, six provinces in Canada have reformed their marital laws to include and recognize gay marriage. It has been determined that in these provinces there are 24 million people between the ages of 18-65.

Using gay math, which says that there is one gay for every ten straights one would assume that there are 2.4 million gays chomping at the bit to get married.

Not so. Since 2003 when these Canadian laws were instituted only 4,000 gay couples applied for marriage licenses in the first year, and in the subsequent years the number of applicants plunged.

There is also strong suggestion that the same low number of gay people are getting married in the United States. The U.S. is a population of approximately 260 million people; therefore, there should be roughly 25 million gay people and roughly 15-20 million gay people pounding the table to get married and have their most important relationship with another human being officially recognized. Yet in Oregon only 3,000 gay couples have taken secular vows. In San Francisco, the gay Mecca, only 4,000 gay couples showed up to marry, including those who flew in from other states.

In Massachusetts, where four Republican justices, who were appointed by Republican Governors, created a State Supreme Court majority acknowledging the legality of gay marriage, only 3,000 gay couples were married.

In 2002 Vermont became the first state to legalize gay civil unions; only 4,000 couples showed up, which also included people who came in from other states, and then the numbers plunged after the first year. At first Vermonters were appalled that their state government had legalized civil unions, but when the number of gay applicants plunged into irrelevance, state residents were more comfortable with the concept not because they readily agreed with civil unions as much as the fact that unions were so infrequent. Nonetheless, 3,000 to 4,000 marriages or unions sound like large figures to the gay community but they represent barely one percent of gay people who should be getting married.

If all 50 states legalized gay marriages and each state averaged 4-5,000 gay marriages, there would be a rough total of 200-250 thousand married gay couples. That is still only about one percent of the total gay population.

So are gay people really interested in marriage or are they trying to force straight people to make something happen that gay people can not make happen for themselves?

Four situations come to mind in my 25 plus adult years in the gay world that may help answer this question. During this period I have lived in several localities with substantial gay populations that include Washington, D.C., South Florida, Dallas, Texas and Los Angeles, California.

It goes like this: I am standing around at a gay gathering or club. My educated progressive gay activist friend says, "I love it here. I come here every weekend to look at everybody. They are so cute. The only problem is that there is something wrong with every guy here. Every guy you look at, no matter how cute, is messed up."

Another situation which has occurred several times in every year of my adult gay life: Someone says, "You know why most of us are not married?" I say, "Why?" My educated, rainbow-flag-lapel-pin-wearing gay friend will say, "Because no one wants to commit. They just want to fool around and have lots of sex."

And a third situation that has occurred several times every year in my gay life: I am in a casual conversation with some gay people about gay life. Someone says, "Do you know why a gay guy won't marry another gay guy, even if he really likes him?" "Why?" we ask.

"Because every time a gay guy looks at another gay guy, he sees himself", says the deeply involved Republican-loathing gay person—who is often commandeering a booth at every Gay Pride Day and going to 3 or 4 gay fund raisers every year.

Finally, a fourth situation in which I hear gays routinely describe the cultural and psychological obstacles inside the gay culture which mitigate against gay marriage. Someone inevitably says, "You know, once you turn 40 in the gay world you are a non-person, people don't look at you. You barely stand a chance to get married. All people want is 20-year old buffed bodies"

These recurring observations may not answer entirely why there are so few gay marriages waiting to happen. But they probably provide a modicum of truth if we look at gay life the way it really is, and not the way we like to pretend it to be.

These observations have never been articulated by the so-called homophobic Republican Party, or Ronald Reagan, or Jesse Helms, or Jerry Falwell or even George "W". Bush. These are observations routinely made by gay people about themselves. And gay people make these observations even as they pour millions of dollars into fund raising causes year-after-year to make the rest of society accept us more than we can accept ourselves. ▼

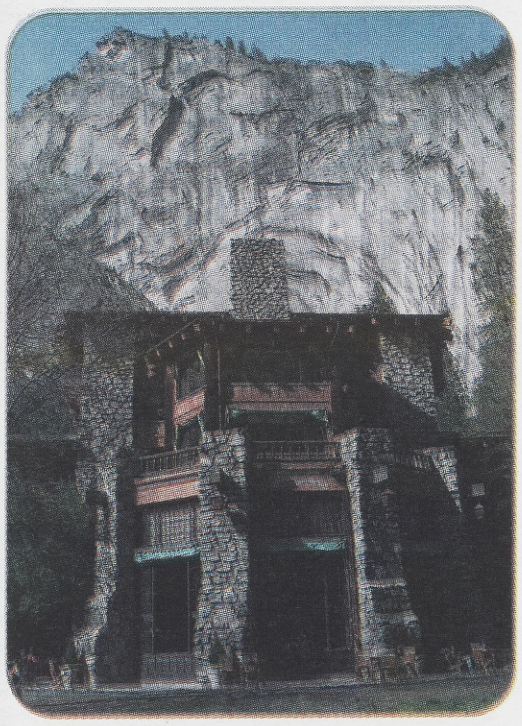
Matthew Tsien is the Vice-President of Development for the Florida Gold Coast Log Cabin Republicans. He served as Director for President Ronald Reagan's official lobbying organization, CITIZENS FOR AMERICA, and was a political broadcast correspondent in Washington, D.C. from 1988-95.

YOSEMITE

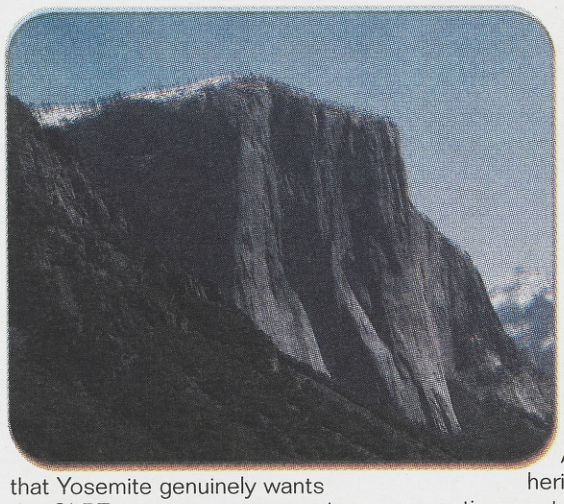
Pictures & Story By Tom Swan

When considering a destination for a vacation we look for exotic or historical or just somewhere we can relax and get away. In a year where traveling long distances by car is out of control because of the ridiculous gas prices, maybe this is the year to look closer to home. San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego are pretty much "been there, done that". So where to go? What about Yosemite?

Remember the place you probably haven't been to since your folks dragged you there as a child? I remember having a wonderful time but I was a kid. We stayed in our campers and I was scared of the bears.



Well, today I wouldn't stay in a camper and I'm certainly not afraid of bears anymore, so it was time to revisit Yosemite and see what's changed. One thing is that Yosemite genuinely wants the GLBT community to consider the park as a destination for their vacations and they've got some great things to do, beautiful places to see and amazing restaurants to try.

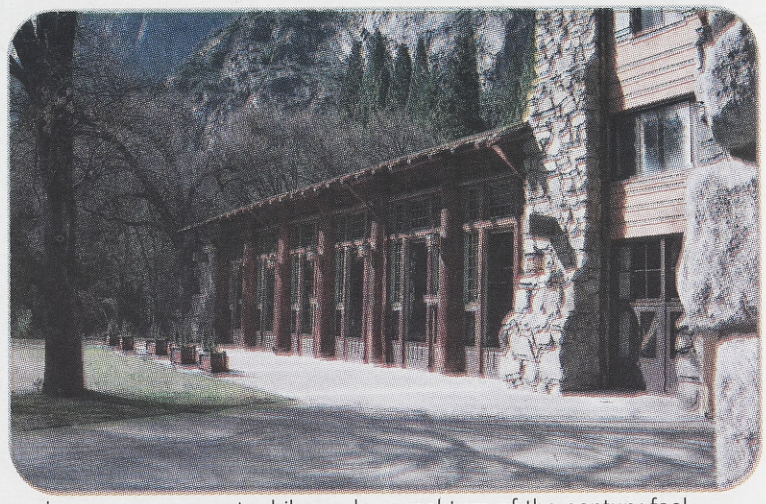


My husband and I accepted the offer to check things out. We left on a Sunday afternoon and traveled Hwy 120, which was nice because everything was in bloom and the foothills were green from this amazing year of rain we have received. About three hours from Sacramento we arrived at the gates to Yosemite. It had snowed a few days before so the road was framed in white on either side, leaving a clear path to the valley floor. It's about 26 miles into the Yosemite valley from the park gate which offers plenty of beautiful landscapes but none of them compare to what you see once you arrive on the floor of the valley. You'll really need to keep your eyes on your driving because while you take in the sights you need to watch for people and animals crossing the road.

Since we heard that if you go to Yosemite you have to see the Ahwahnee Hotel, we thought it best to stay there. The Ahwahnee Hotel opened in 1927 and has managed to keep its original glory. It's a six story hotel fashioned perfectly with a blend of American Indian heritage and a romantic mountain lodge. Towering windows offer great views of Half Dome and Yosemite falls and giant fireplaces offer an place to warm up on cool mornings. The hotel houses a 5-star restaurant and a beautiful bar for an afternoon cocktail or an after dinner drink. The dining room is huge and looks very much like the great hall from the *Harry Potter* movies. The restaurant serves breakfast and lunch but the dinners are amazing with a great menu that would challenge any 5-star San Francisco restaurant. The hotel staff was A+ and they do offer a historical tour that I would suggest to everyone. You walk away understanding the rich history of this magnificent landmark. Their elevators were the inspiration for *The Shining* elevators and as you turn the corner in the hall ways you half expect to see those little girls from the movie. A few chills won't ruin your good time, the grounds are beautiful with scenery everywhere you turn and the beds are feather topped so when you lay down on the bed it envelopes you. The Ahwahnee Hotel is the pricier destination in Yosemite but if you want to go for it, it's worth the price to do it. Even if you decide on another place to stay, do stop by for an amazing meal and drink in the history of the Ahwahnee.

If you're still not ready to brave the elements, you can check into the Yosemite lodge. This is not just a more economical way to stay in Yosemite but a very open and friendly place to stay. It's like campsites but with TV's and a bathroom. The Yosemite lodge has multiple eating establishments which offer everything from burgers to sandwiches to an excellent fillet mignon. The Yosemite Lodge is also the place to start your tours. There is a bus trip that's a great way to learn about the history of the valley. The drivers are very knowledgeable and will point out all the historical sites.

There are hiking trails galore and you can even rent a bike and see the park in a completely different way...out of breath. I took the 8 mile bike ride and I must tell you it was totally amazing and worth the energy. Make sure you visit the Ansel Adams Gallery and make the time to do the camera walks which are offered at the gallery. If you do nothing else just walk to the meadow and take in the panoramic view of one this nations great National Parks.

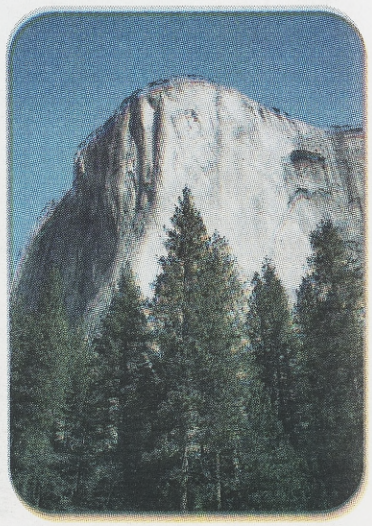


If you're looking for something even more relaxing and secluded then the Wawona Hotel may be more to your liking. About 30 miles from the Yosemite Valley, seven miles from the Giant Sequoias stands this 126 year old historical landmark. The white Victorian-style buildings are a welcome sight as you make your way to or from the park.

Originally the hotel was a stop over for folks on their way in the Yosemite Valley (as they traveled on horseback or stagecoach). The main dining room serves all the meals including a charming Sunday brunch. If you just happen to be in the area during the summer they have Saturday evening western style barbeque in the style of the turn of the last century.

Quiet is not all there is on the agenda. The Wawona houses one of the oldest golf courses in the Sierras as well as a swimming tank during the summer and tennis courts. The real selling point for this hotel is if you're looking for something slower with that real turn of the century feel. While you walk around the grounds you get a real feel for a different time. You almost expect a stagecoach to come roaring through the trees bringing visitors to this 19th century Hotel.

If you don't need history and you're looking for a beautiful, yet modern, hotel with all the extras than the Tenaya Lodge will probably be the perfect fit. Located in Fish Camp (I'm not going to make any jokes) and a few miles from the Wawona is this newer Hotel. The hotel has both and indoor and outdoor pool with Jacuzzi and a small spa area. The hotel has plans in the works to turn it into a major spa resort within a year. Even with all the modern comforts you still have a real feel for the area. Yosemite is not forgotten in this Hotel. There is a fantastic restaurant/bar with a

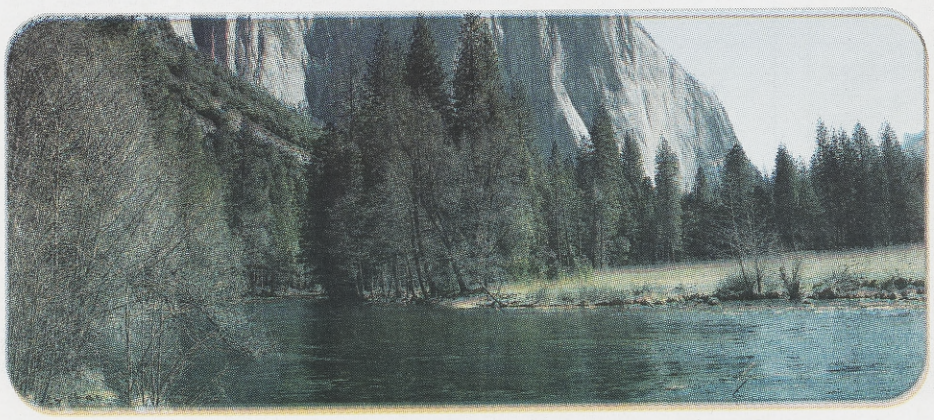


wonderful menu and great service. The appetizers were incredible. This would be a great place to stay all year round but I'd imagine it would be a wonderful place to return to after a day of playing in the snow. Like the Wawona, the Tenaya Lodge is located near the Giant Sequoia but just outside the south entrance of the park.

They have events going on all year long at all of these locations. I think what surprised me the most was that Yosemite is open all year long. I've seen *The Shining* one to many times and just assumed that the place is closed down during the winter. That couldn't be further from the truth. During the Winter they actually have a ton of events happening. Two of my favorites are the Vintner's Holiday and the Chef's Holiday. The Vintner's runs November 7th thru December 9th. It runs during the weekdays where they bring in the top wine from California and basically you have tasting seminars daily that lead to a grand dinner where all the courses are accompanied by just the right wine. The Chef's Holiday works the same but instead of tasting wine you're watching chef's prepare wonderful meals and I'm imagining there will be some tasting going on there as well. Each session will be headed by one of the best Chef's in the country and there will be a Gala Chef's dinner at the end of each session. If you're a fan of the Food Channel this sounds like a must. The Chef's Holiday runs January 9th thru February 3rd. The summer has all the outdoor activities you can think of but the other seasons have their own opportunities. The autumn has beautiful fall foliage while the spring has waterfalls forming and wild flowers blooming. The winters in Yosemite have everything you might want including skiing, snowshoe walks, snowboarding and they even have an outdoor ice skating rink that I've been told is awesome. the best part is they have shuttle service to Badger pass daily for all your winter activities.

Whether you're looking to participate in sports or just kick back in a Adirondack chair and read a book, Yosemite has something for everyone in our community. Pick a season, pick a place to stay, but don't miss out on one of the most beautiful places in the world that is basically in our own backyard. Leave it to a queen to reference *The Wizard of Oz*.

Check out the website and make some plans.
nationalparkreservations.com/yosemite.htm



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Queer Voices: That's What Friends Are For...

By
M.A. Ross
MGW
Staff

Like a lot of working class people I spend a lot of my weekends trying to blot out the monotony of the past workweek. The largest part of my weekends is spent just hanging out with friends. We'll watch movies together, catch a ball game or grab a bite to eat somewhere. We might spend all night play video games, drinking beer, and "holding meetings of the joint chief of stuff".

Whatever my friend and I do together, we're always talking and getting to know each other. Over and above having fun, friends (real friends) should be there to support you when you need help.

In addition to spending my weekends getting blotto, I've spent many a weekend helping friends relocate or helping talk out their life trials and tribulations. These are not new revelations; a lot of people spend their weekends with friends getting inebriated and/or lending a helping hand or sympathetic ear.

What is new or rather atypical for me is that I have more heterosexual friends than I do homosexual ones. I'm not sure why this is, it just is. I'm not bothered by heterosexuality; I'm not heterophobic. I don't mind if my heterosexual friends "flaunt their life style in my face." What better way to tell what side of the fence they are stand on (or if they are straddling it. Woof!)

Likewise my straight friends know what side of the fence I stand on. They don't think of me being myself as "flaunting my lifestyle" they think of it as being honest. And a friendship without honesty just isn't a friendship.

Besides sharing in the good times, friends should be there to help you in times of need. Whether it's help moving boxes or help moving hearts and minds. The problems my straight friends have may range from their cars to their girlfriends or wives (or both! Yipes!)

"I'll want to talk to my friends about it. This is where those comfort levels with honesty help out so much, especially when talking about serious matters. When I'm conversing with my friends I don't have to be hindered with converting gender pro-nouns. I know that my friends will be empathetic to the same sex nature of my problems."

The sexual characteristics of the players in the problems may be different, but the hearts of the problems are still the same. When the Mr. and I have a disagreement, (and we have some gnarly ones!)

I'll want to talk to my friends about it. This is where those comfort levels with honesty help out so much, especially when talking about serious matters. When I'm conversing with my friends I don't have to be hindered with converting gender pronouns. I know that my friends will be empathetic to the same sex nature of my problems.

Those comfort levels can also provide for some interesting topics of discussion and some pretty wicked wit. Like which major sports stars might (or might not) be gay or would gay men buy sphincter-whitening pads?

Not all of my friends were so open at first to the idea of having a homosexual as a friend. I tried my best to put their fears to rest. I showed them through my actions not to believe all of the stereotypes and hype about homosexuals. I attempted to use my reason and logic to overturn their doubts. I tried to focus on our similarities, instead of our differences.

I focused on the basic human need for someone to love. Our tastes in mates may have been polar opposites, but I tried to show them that at the base levels we really weren't that different. I didn't always succeed, but I feel the people I couldn't reason with weren't worth keeping as friends in the first place.

The people I did succeed with have been of great value and hope to me. I have seen my friends speak up when someone makes a disparaging remark about homosexuals.

We have commiserated about how asinine anti-gay legislation and the people who support it are. I know that they have helped support gay causes. We've even laugh at the same gay in-jokes on *The Simpsons* and *Family Guy*. Friendships can be a beautiful thing. As daunting as it sounds to a lot of homosexuals, our best assets in the fight for equality will be straight people. The struggle for gay rights and equality have come a long way, but is far from over.

We've won some battles and lost some battles, but the one thing I know for sure is that the tide is turning in our favor. Everyday more and more of the stale stereotypes and the innate notions about homosexuals are being torn down.

The demonizing by those who object to homosexuality isn't holding true. The more straight people know of our lives the more they will come to understand that our differences are minor.

The more homosexuals show straight people just how mainstream we are, the more those who stand against us will look like fundamental fools. I can't think of a better way to understanding than through a friendship. ▼

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Fear and Loathing: Crash

By Stefan Gruenwedel
MGW Staff

Crash
Starring Don Cheadle, Matt Dillon, Terrence Howard, Ryan Phillippe, Thandie Newton, Sandra Bullock. Written & directed by Paul Haggis. (Rated R, 107 min.)

Race relations in America are so charged that most forms of entertainment either exaggerate the situation or ignore it altogether. Race relations are complex, of course, because of the number of nationalities, languages, political viewpoints, and socio-economic levels involved. To get at the heart of the matter, a typical movie either skims the surface or focuses on something specific.

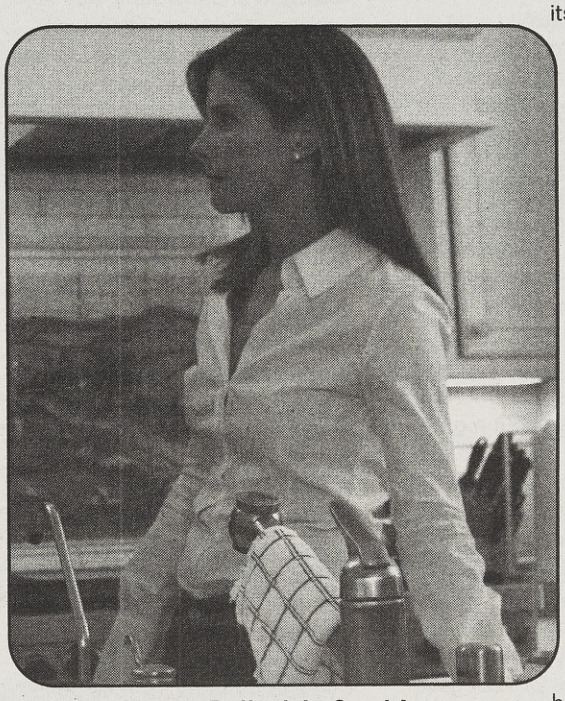
Crash, a film by Paul Haggis (who most notably wrote Clint Eastwood's *Million Dollar Baby*), approaches this multifaceted topic by portraying the intersecting lives of half a dozen people living in Los Angeles. Take the most dramatic news events that might happen in any given week in Los Angeles and you will end up with what transpires in *Crash* over the span of two days.

No wonder the film is called *Crash*. LA is all about driving inside cars—safe inside a personal bubble that nothing can penetrate until there's a crash.

Haggis himself experienced a feeling of shattered sensibility when, after having lived in LA for 25 years, he was carjacked at gunpoint one night. As he thought about the lives of those who had stolen his car—and how they rationalized their dangerous behavior—he came up with the ideas that permeate this film.

The life of privilege lived by the LA district attorney (Brendan Fraser) and his wife, Jean (Sandra Bullock), is shattered one night by a carjacking in a relatively safe neighborhood—an experience that leaves Jean more paranoid than ever and the DA looking for a way to minimize the political consequences of this turn of events. As a woman who has always been able to distance herself conveniently from certain harsh realities of urban life, Jean now becomes convinced that Daniel (Michael Peña), the young Hispanic man who comes to change the locks, is simply a gang member who will give a copy of her house keys to his homies. Within his earshot, she tells her husband that they'll need to change the locks again in the morning. Back home, Daniel finds his young daughter hiding under her bed, still scared of the bullets she used to hear whizzing through the neighborhood where they used to live. He realizes that no matter how far you move from a ghetto, people will continue to think you belong there.

Meanwhile, Cameron, a successful television producer (Terrence Howard), and his wife, Christine (Thandie Newton), are stopped while driving their vehicle because it fits the description of the DA's hijacked SUV. Suspecting some sort of foul play—unrelated to the carjacking—Officer Ryan (Matt Dillon) plays a little psychological torture on the well-dressed black couple,



Sandra Bullock in Crash!

as his junior partner, Officer Hansen (Ryan Phillippe), looks on helplessly with contempt. Cameron and Christine react very differently to the officer's powerplay. Cameron is acutely aware of what can happen when a black man confronts a white LAPD officer, so he remains subservient to Officer Ryan's advances on his wife. Christine, who feels violated during the pat-down, can hardly contain her anger—first at the officer and later, at home, at her husband for allowing it to happen.

As for Peter (Larenz Tate) and Anthony (Chris "Ludacris" Bridges), the two hoodlums who point their guns at the DA and his wife at the beginning of the film, their rule of stealing only from white folks doesn't always play out the way they expect, such as when they attempt another carjacking—and end up confronting Cameron.

There's also LAPD detective Graham (Don Cheadle) who attempts to balance the stresses in his life: the relationship he has with his lover and fellow detective, Ria (Jennifer Esposito); his drug-addled mother (Beverly Todd), who repeatedly asks Graham whether he's found his missing younger brother—none other than the aforementioned carjacker Peter; and the DA's office, which wants to solve a recent fatal shooting of an undercover cop in a politically expedient way rather than by investigating the facts.

Finally, post-9/11 racism rears its head when Iranian store owner Farhad (Shaun Toub) and his daughter Dorri (Bahar Soomekh) suffer the prejudices of people who consider them nearly as culpable for 9/11 as the Saudi hijackers. Whether these displays of aggression occur in a local gun store or result in their store being vandalized, the end result is that these people who have fled extremism in their home country find themselves subjected repeatedly to irrational hostility in their adopted country too.

These are just a few of the many stories that weave their way through Haggis' convoluted plot. Some of them are more compelling than others, some fresher than others, some laced with more humor than others, some more heavily laden with melodrama than others, but they really only work as an ensemble. Each of these stories could be explored more deeply to get at characters' motivations better or uncover their inherent contradictions, but Haggis reveals just enough in each tale to keep things interesting.

It also helps that the acting is excellent throughout. Apparently as soon as Cheadle signed on board, everyone else wants to be in the picture. They were drawn to the film's importance.

Although the specter of racism appears throughout the film, Haggis seems motivated more by depicting people's fear of strangers rather than class or race issues. He examines the society of fear that Americans live in today and extends it to the lives of the people he portrays.

Probably the most surprising confrontation occurs between Daniel and Farhad. The store owner fails to heed the locksmith's warning about a back door needing replacing. After there's a break-in, which the insurance company refuses to cover, Farhad pays Daniel a visit at his home, gun in hand. As the music swells and the motion turns to slo-mo, you fear the worst. Instead, a neat twist toys nicely with one's preconceived notions (fueled by other films) about the need for retribution.

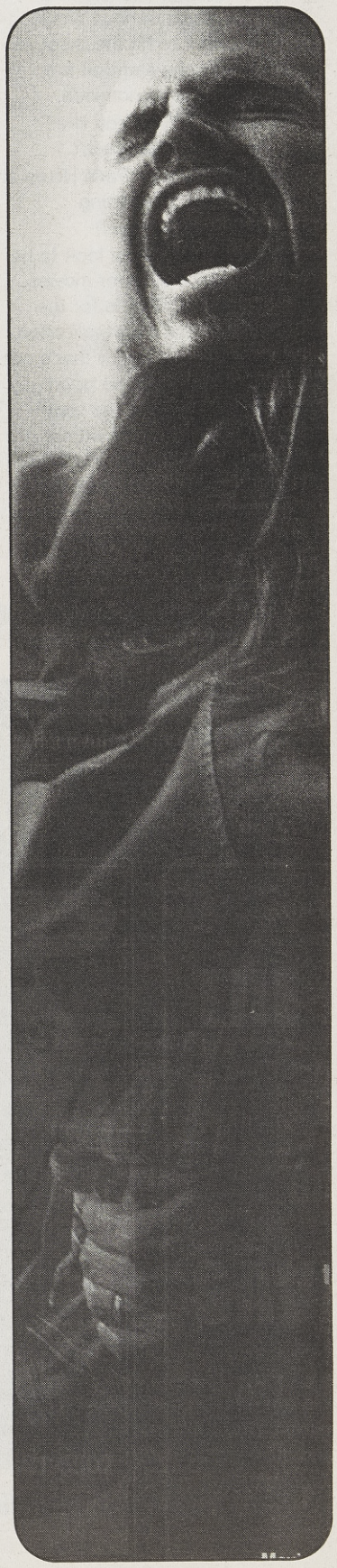
With some exceptions, Haggis' manner of storytelling means that characters often are forced to exacerbate the situations they're in or must act unbelievably prejudiced just to get their point across—as if everyone is on the verge of snapping at any moment. Or else they have to cross paths too conveniently just to propel the plot forward.

Because of these artistic manipulations, *Crash* feels more like a morality play than an accurate reflection of reality. Characters act more like archetypes than individuals. Perhaps it's through those stereotypes that we see others best. Unfortunately, that's exactly how many people do see others who are unlike themselves.

Crash could make its dramatic situations even more devastating if the characters displayed more subtlety. As long as people see others as stereotypes, they won't see them as real individuals who could be just like themselves if fate had been different. And it's too easy to dismiss their lashing out as blind, racist temper tantrums rather than the ignorant rationalizations they often are.

Everywhere in this film people jump to conclusions and speak before they think about what it is they want to say—and how their words will impact others. They're all on the road towards suffering an inevitable, debilitating crash. ▼

Crash plays at Reading Cinemas Tower Theater, Century Stadium 14, Century 16 Greenback Lane, and elsewhere. Info: www.crash-film.com.

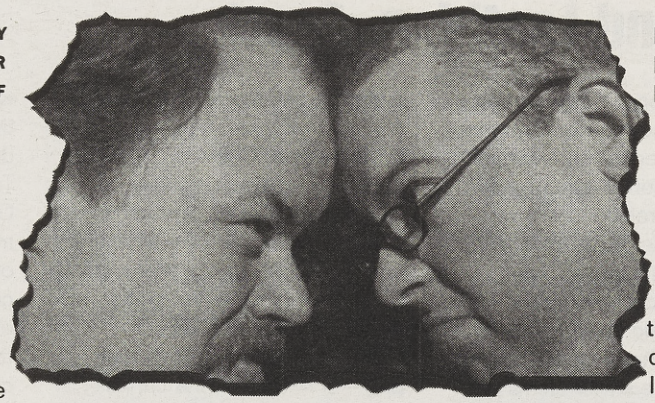


Star Wars and Crash Best Movies In May

"▼▼▼▼▼" = SEE IT NOW!
"▼▼▼▼" = SEE IT SOON!
"▼▼▼" = SEE IT IF U CAN!
"▼▼" = SEE THE DVD!
"▼" = RUN AWAY!

By Tom Swanner MGW Staff

By Brisn Judd MGW Staff



Judd: Well Tom, I guess I'll start off this review by saying to our readers that the month of May is going to blow your socks off! There are some serious block-busters about to hit the theatres and there is one film that is a guaranteed Oscar nominee.

Swanner: Really? You liked *House of Wax* that much?

Judd: Absolutely! Paris Hilton is a lock-in Best Supporting Actress.

Swanner: May does look to be a really good month for movies. It's always is a prelude for the summer and if it's any indication of the summer...wow! If that's not enough there are three good gay titles coming to DVD as well. Let's get the not so good out of the way first. *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Universe* is the long awaited film version of the best selling by the same name. I never read the books but that shouldn't make or break a film. I found this film really boring. Scenes went on forever while the filmmakers tried to force a laugh that just wasn't going to come. Bizarre moment just to to bizarre. It did have a few laughs but not enough to keep my attention. I rather see Paris Hilton in a movie then have to sit through *Hitchhiker's...* again.

Judd: I actually forgot (suppressed) *Hitchhiker's...* This movie was a bomb. The sad thing is I like bizarre moments and Monty Python style humor, but Hitchhiker's blew it scene after scene. The story was paper thin with gaping holes. he acting was so-so. I love Sam Rockwell but the only thing he did well in the movie was fill out a pair of short-shorts—obviously sans underwear.

Swanner: Moving on from that there really are some good films. *Kingdom of Heaven* is director Ridley Scott's new film and I really liked it a lot. It's storyline follows Orlando Bloom (like who wouldn't follow him) as he fights to save Jerusalem from the Muslims. What I liked about it was that they didn't paint anyone as the bad guys. Both wanted Jerusalem and would give their lives to acquire it. The cinematography is amazing and the acting and the direction was top notch. I really liked it.

Judd: Unfortunately, I missed that one. *House of Wax* was one that I did get to see. While I won't say that it's a "must see" or anything, I think anyone who enjoys B-style horror films will enjoy this one. It's your basic teen- scream slasher flick. It was fun. It was mildly frightening. It was very gory. Oh, and let's not forget Paris Hilton and her Oscar worthy performance!

Swanner: I also liked how stylized it was for a cheesy horror film. The movie is about a group of kids who take a wrong turn and end up in a strange little town. The two main characters are twins and of course the killers are twins too. As Brian said, it's very gory but that's why I think it makes the perfect date movie,

Judd: Don't forget the nod of recognition *House of Wax* gave to *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane*? Sure, Blanche and Baby Jane Hudson weren't twins, but they were sisters. "There were never such devoted sisters..."

Swanner: You are such a queen. What is sadder then a fag quoting *White Christmas* in May? I saw another film you missed called *Mindhunters*. This basically Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* but with FBI agents. It's a psychological thriller about a group of young FBI agents put on an abandoned island for testing til they find out that one of the group is a serial killer...but which agent is it? This was a fun who-dunit with some spectacular killings. I'd like to see it again. Earlier you had mentioned a guarantee Oscar nominee and you have to be talking about *Crash*. It was and incredible movie. .

Judd: I'm a queen? Isn't that the pot calling the kettle black! Besides, I know you finished the stanza in your head before you even starting writing your response! *Crash* really has to be one of the best films to come out this year. Our readers know I loved Sin City, but *Crash* starts the Oscar race. The acting was excellent and the story was hypnotizing. I've never seen a preview audience sit that still. The whole theatre was quiet as the story unfolded. Sandra Bullock was a total bitch—a role I've never seen her play before. Don Cheadle, Ryan Phillippe, Matt Dillon and Loretta Devine were all excellent, as they always are. Even rapper Chris 'Ludacris' Bridges showed the potential for some serious acting chops. You're going to have to breakdown the plot for our readers as it was too much for me to describe.

Swanner: It reminded me of *Traffic* where you have multiple stories all intercepting each other. It really plays in to how much we fear and hate each other as a people. The title signifies how we try to avoid looking people in the eye and try to never touch but sooner or later we crash into each other. It was an incredible script and basically everything about the movie was incredible. By the way, I didn't finish singing the song but I did think about the dress and fan combo.

Judd: So, let me think. What else did we see that our readers may have an interest in? Maybe they might want to read about what we thought of *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*?

Swanner: That old thing? Oh, you mean the new one? You saw it?

Judd: I did! I did see *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*, and you were there too! I can't say too much about the film other than it was 2 hours and 15 minutes of nerdy goodness. And that's high praise coming from me since I've never seen any of the original *Star Wars* films in their entirety and the only film I've ever walked out of was *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace*.

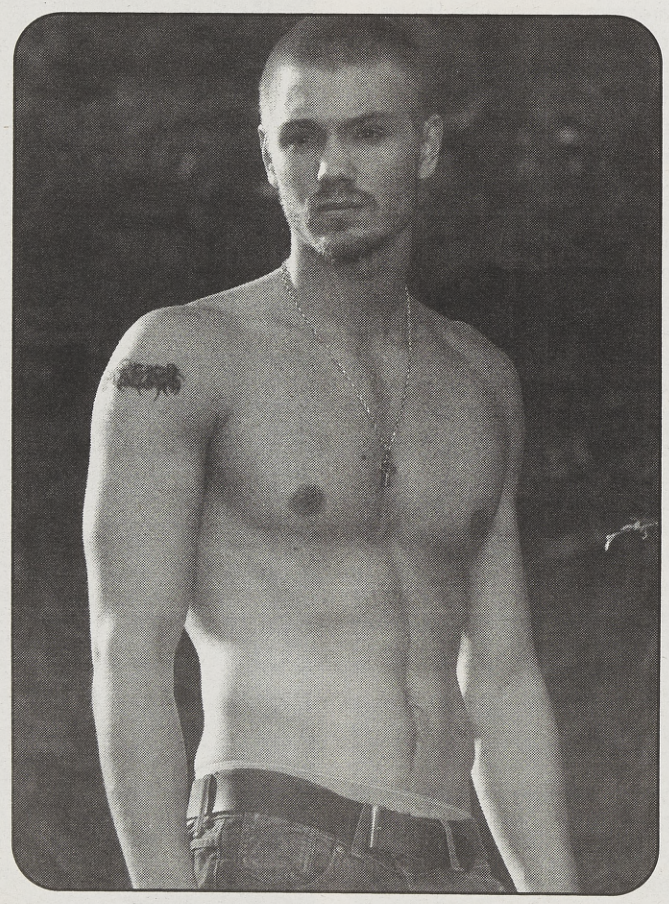
Swanner: You've never seen *Star Wars*? I don't know you anymore. I agree that it was just the movie the fans want to see. I've never been a big fanatic for the films but I do enjoy them. I hated *Phantom Menace* and *The Clone Wars* but this one was very satisfying. It reminded me of *Empire Strikes Back*, very dark and even sad. One thing people need to remember is that this film needs to fit between *Clone Wars* and *A New Hope* (number 2 and number 4) I think it answers all the questions fans will have and sets up for the next film (the original *Star Wars*).

Judd: I don't like Sci-Fi. What can I say? I find it boring. *Revenge of the Sith* had a decent pace. Those light-phaser fights seemed drug out, but from what I understand that's what the nerds go for. Like I already mentioned, the fact that I sat through the whole thing is already enough to tell people who may be questioning this film that it is a decent movie.

Swanner: New to DVD are three movies that will appeal to our audience. *Kinsey*, *Bear Cub* and *Prom Queen*. Where would you like to start?

Judd: Let's start with *Kinsey*. It's a title that most of our audience should recognize and it was one of the best movies of 2004. Laura Linney and Liam Neeson were excellent—Linney was nominated for the Best Supporting Oscar. The movie is basically a bio-pic about the life and times of Dr. Alfred Kinsey, the first man to seriously study human sexuality. Considering this nation's current political clime, I don't think that this movie could have been released at a better period in time.

Swanner: Don't forget to mention that there is plenty of man on man action and Peter (yummers) Sarsgaard does full frontal in the film. I loved this movie as well. It was probably my favorite movie from last year. Bill Condon who wrote and directed the film also wrote and directed *Gods and Monsters* and wrote the screenplay for *Chicago*. I think he's a truly great director. He's also in production now for *Dreamgirls*. I'm thrilled he's directing it.

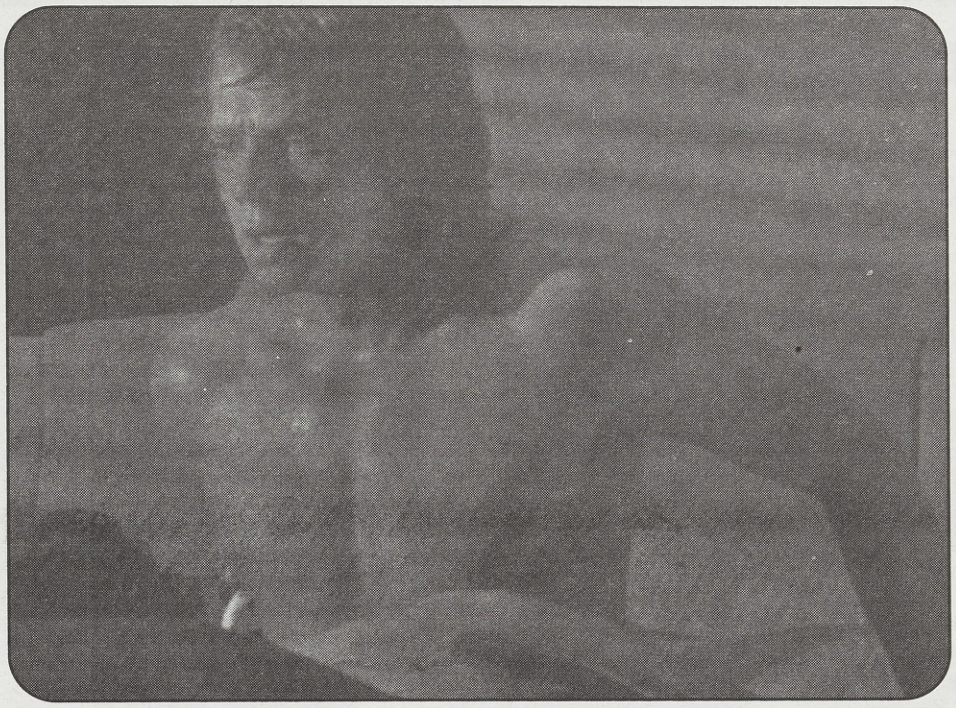


Chad Michael Murray in *House of Wax*

Judd: I don't remember a full frontal. Can I borrow your copy of the DVD? If fact, let me trade you *Prom Queen*. *Prom Queen* is a Wolfe Video release—which can either be a really good thing or a really bad thing. In the case of *Prom Queen*, the movie falls in the somewhere in the middle. Which is highly uncommon for Wolfe.

Swanner: I thought it was really cute. It's a gay after school special about a senior in high school that wants to take his boyfriend to the prom. It's actually based on a true story which changed a lot of rule for Canadian schools and how they treat gay and lesbian students.

Judd: It wasn't a bad movie, but it's completely forgettable. I did like that *Kids in the Hall's* Dave Foley and Scott Thompson were in the film. I won't say they lended the movie any credibility—because they didn't—but it is nice to see familiar faces in an independent film.



Hayden Christensen plays Anakin Skywalker/Lord Darth Vader

Swanner: You just didn't like because there was a happy ending. Had he died in a fiery accident you'd be all over it. Finally, *Bear Cub* is a Spanish movie that marks the first to take a peek at bears in the gay community.

Judd: Ooh, you're just hateful! *Bear Cub*, I will admit that is groundbreaking in that it draws it's cast from the Bear community. The movie, outside its rotund and hirsute cast, was again forgettable. A gay guy takes custody of his nephew. His mother/the boy's grandmother protests. He fights the courts and stereotypes and blah, blah, blah for the child. YAWN!!!

Swanner: OK, finally we agree on one. This was not the movie I wanted to see. It was forgettable and that makes me mad. It should have been about how he needed the whole community to rally around him so they all became fathers to this kid but instead it was the boring mother protesting blah blah blah. I will say that some of the guys are pretty cute but other then that...yawn!

Judd: I'm glad you agree.... ▼

SWANNER:

kingdom of heaven ▼▼▼1/2
mindhunters ▼▼▼
house of wax ▼▼
crash ▼▼▼▼
hitchhiker's... ▼
star wars III ▼▼▼
kinsey ▼▼▼▼
prom queen ▼▼
bear cub ▼

JUDD:

house of wax ▼▼
crash ▼▼▼▼
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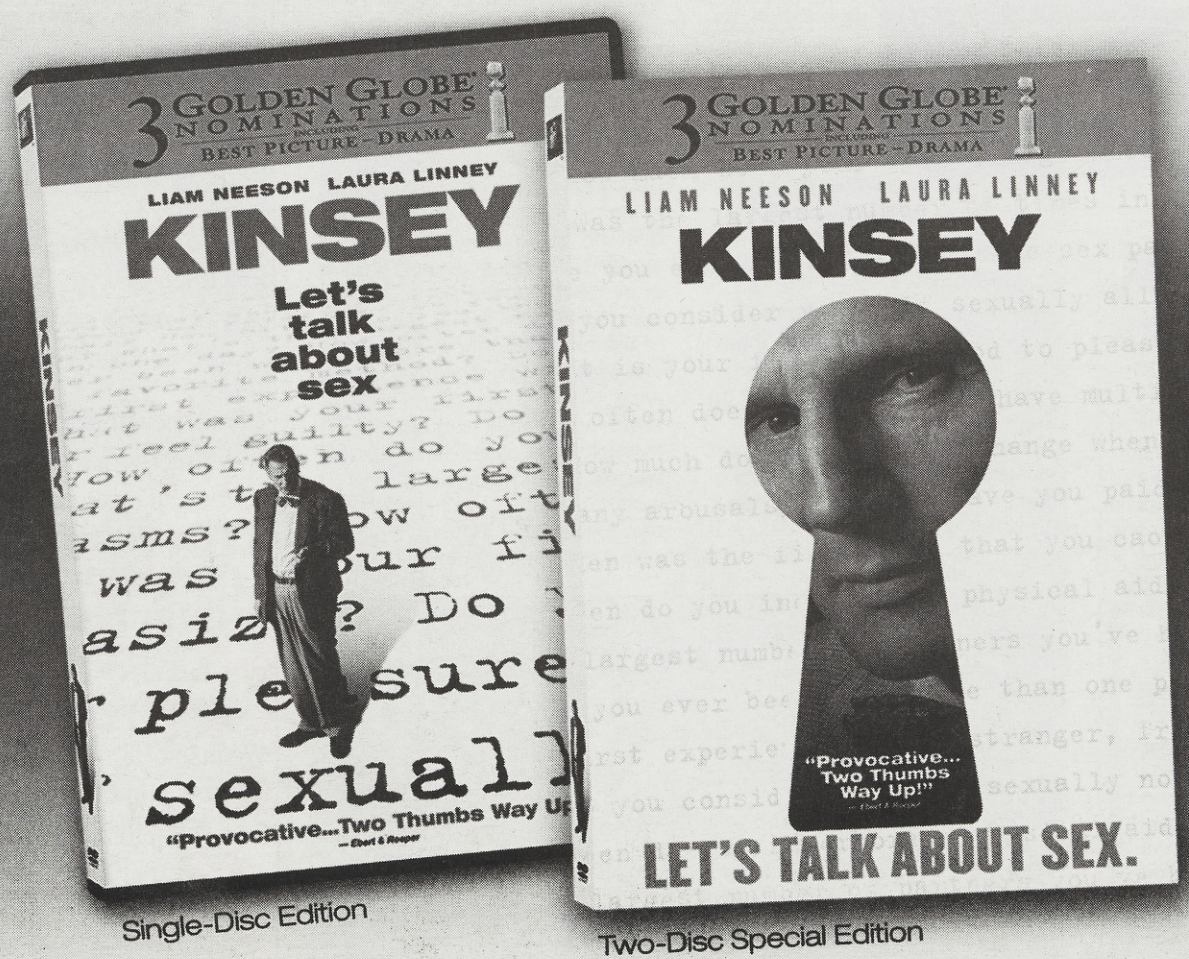

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nterview with Artist Kathy Gaschk

By Shira Davida Goldberg
MGW Staff

Inspired by the majestic landscapes of New Mexico and Arizona and the human condition in general, Kathy Gaschk made her first of 12 pilgrimages to the Southwest beginning in 1989. The landscapes and their textures were provoking, leaving Gaschk in awe. "I loved the wide-open skies and the orange-red reflections of the sun on the walls of ancient Anasazi ruins." Noticing the hills were covered with a cool contrast of blue-green sage and yellow-orange skies she imparted on canvas the prevailing warmth and vibrancy.

The distinctive look of her work is reflected in her artistic lineage. Her great-great-great-grandfather practiced the Pre-Raphaelite style and studied art in Italy. "I learned to oil paint at my grandmother's studio in Santa Cruz when I was about 10 years old. My artwork is a progression of what I started out with as a child. My favorite toy as a preschooler was a pencil. My father was an engineer in Silicon Valley and I remember him bringing home reams of colored paper for me to draw on. My father brought home my first Rapidograph pen."

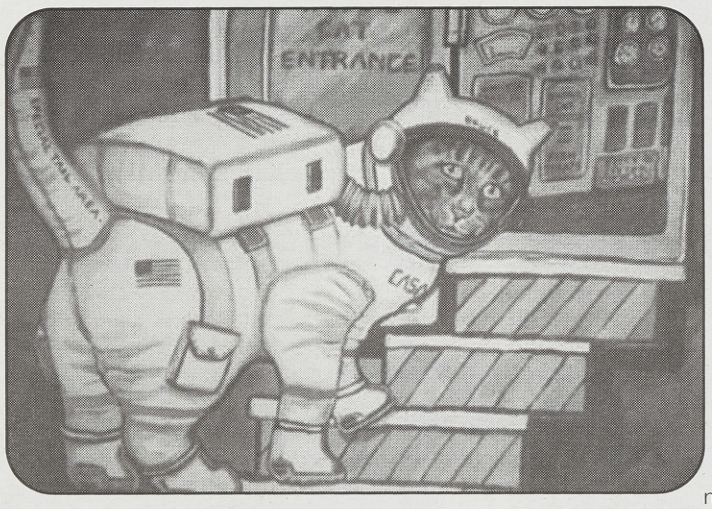
Gaschk moved to Sacramento in 1981 and a few years later began her career as an illustrator. She was the artist that illustrated for the Sacramento Zoo, her rendition of Mother Goose in watercolor can be seen at Fairytale Town in Sacramento. Other accolades include illustrations for Intel, and the Sacramento Public Library.

Her creativity begins with advanced processes. "I have developed some complex techniques for my own work. My painting technique sometimes involves a collage of photographs I have taken, then a loose pencil sketch, then another layer of watercolor, then a layer of Prisma Color pencil. I want the colors to shout in contrast to one another.

She is a student of the psychology of color. Influenced by the work of Elizabeth Kubler-Ross's writings about the different languages terminally ill adults and children use when they try to convey their inner knowledge and needs. "Her books included artwork created by her patients. This artwork seemed to express a relationship with a power outside ourselves, something bigger and stronger than us."

Gaschk realizes that there may be a creative force directing our lives and this has brought her much comfort. "I believe that the choices one makes regarding color usage (especially in one's home) can express where that person is spiritually and emotionally in their life."

In a conventional pose, her Women With Potatoes, watercolor, portrays a melancholic image, reflecting the distinctive position of the arduous working class.



Space Cat

Expanding our collective social conscience, she offers a glimpse, an earnest sympathy toward laborers is a poignant portrayal, exaggerated by the enlarged hands and focused although exhausted disposition, indicated by the drained facial expression. Gaschk's depiction is executed in compassionate detail, reminiscent of the European village life. This piece reminds me of my father's Polish family in the 'old' country, prior to his liberation after surviving five years in Auschwitz. The old women, depicted as worn yet prideful, shows that Gaschk comprehends the mysteries of form and circumstance. Fueled by the energy of the hard working, it is this peasantry that is encapsulated with the expression on the women's face. Exhausted, yet enduring, the old women is symbolic of a life giving the viewer a glimpse, leaving an indistinct impression. Her style is masterful in stark comparison, using vibrancy in color to evoke and illuminate purposeful thought. There is an artistic imagery, a progressive, evolved sense of where we've come, and a tireless work ethic which is both anguishing and encouraging. Her use of vibrant color is indicative of a way of life, despite, or because of, circumstance, and it yields a prideful optimism.

River of Color

It is a dramatic view, of familiar subject matter to the artist that allows her to examine and record an artistic cultivation of a landscape of unprecedented tranquility, inspiration and lucidity, exemplifying her affection of this New Mexico landscape that she came to love. The rolling hills, a ubiquitous feature of the region, cultivated by her revealing brushstrokes, allows an interaction with being and nature, a symbiosis. It is through her warm familiarity of the region that she imparts a transcendent narration that we can relate to, that in which individuals and nature reside in a harmonious balance.

River of Color

Space Cat

Introducing a humorist facet Gaschk incorporates a rich intensity, flow and freedom of color as well as an authenticity that is conveyed by the subject matter. Interesting is the colorist effects achieved as the whimsical subject, namely a tabby cat, is about to board a space shuttle is significant. What is her intention? My interpretation, which is what most art is based on, makes me think that she is challenging the viewer to see past the ordinary, allowing what is construed as a passive and controlled creature seizing the opportunity to gain power and be in command of and modify it's own circumstance, with or without understanding by those deemed superior. It is in her humoristic painting that contemporary thought is questioned in a non threatening presentation. The submissive becomes dominant, the ridiculous evolves into the usual. This is an evoking piece, as the cat in a spacesuit becomes more humanistic, than animalistic, taking charge while abandoning the norm, the expected, the boring and overly simplistic.

Gaschk is a talent, bar none. Her work is popular and in high demand not only because it is evoking, but because her usage of intellect, compassion and experience lend to her response of the essence in her art which she allows each of us to experience. Vincent Van Gogh once said, "a symbolic language through color alone" such symbolism are enmeshed in the works of Kathy Gaschk. The current exhibit is at Uptown Studios until April 30th. ▼

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Recoverypets.com Helps To Recover Lost Pets

Making our lives better includes protecting our families, and also included in this category is the family pet. This once wild animal has become an integral part of the modern family, and there are many laws devoted to stopping abuses to pets. What is lacking in the modern family is proving a means to recover the family pet, if they should ever become lost. Ensuring that a lost pet will be returned to its owners should be a number one priority, because the loss of a family pet can be a very devastating time.

Fortunately there are organizations that provide services to increase the chances of recovering a family pet if they should ever become loss. One such company that combines the pet identification tag and the Internet is RecoveryPets.Com, they provide a service that assigns the pet a unique tracking number, and a web page on their site. This page includes a complete pet description, a photograph of the pet, and up to ten contact numbers or email addresses. So if a stranger finds the pet, they can quickly identify the owner by entering the unique tracking number on the website and the contact information will be displayed.

The process involved is very simple, once the pet has been registered for the service the registrant will receive a metal pet tag that contains the unique identification number, and the RecoveryPets.Com website address. If the pet should ever become loss the finder logs onto the website, and enters the unique identification number into a form field, and the pet owners information will be displayed.

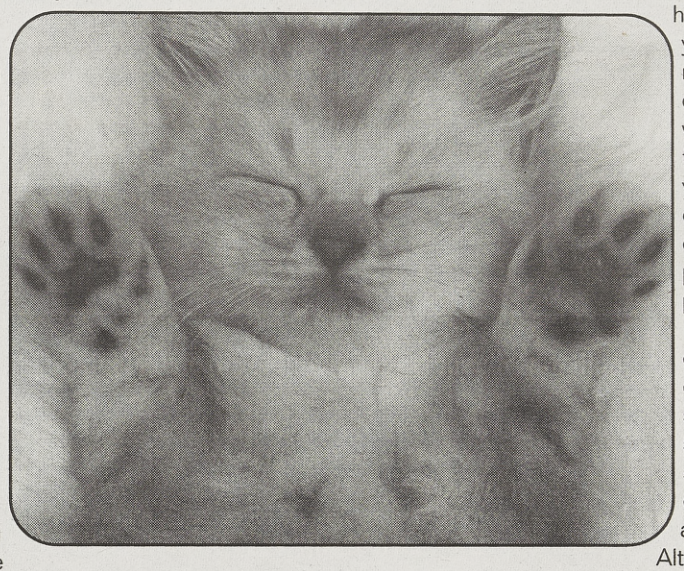
The company is also making efforts to partner with organizations that lost pets are returned to, including the Humane Society, S.P.C.A., and various other pet shelter organizations. The goal is to provide a one-stop location for these organizations to go to when they have a lost pet with the RecoveryPets.Com identification tag on the collar. ▼

If you are a pet owner and would like to get more information on the services provided by RecoveryPets.Com, or would like to register your pet for their service, you can visit their website at: http://www.recoverypets.com

Aghhh! My Cat Has Got Fleas...

So, how come my cat has got fleas? Cats that are allowed outside pick up fleas by socializing with other cats or just by walking through territory where other cats have been.

Think that your indoor only cat is safe? Not so, fleas can travel into your home on your clothing (white garments seem particularly attractive to fleas). Once inside your home they easily transfer themselves to your cat who is a much more desirable host.



A cat that has picked up fleas may scratch vigorously around its neck and may groom the spine obsessively. Using a metal flea comb groom your cat paying attention to behind the ears, the neck and the base of the spine. Make sure that the comb reaches your cat's skin. If you find black, or deep brown gritty specks on the comb put these on a dampened tissue. If red seeps from them they are flea droppings, which are composed of dried blood.

Fleas lay their eggs in your cat's fur. These eggs fall out and hatch into larvae in your cats bedding, cracks in the floor boards, in upholstery and in your carpets. The larvae evolve into fleas that attach themselves and feed from any host that comes by, your cat being ideal.

Fleas live anything from two months to two years, and can be feeding for a good deal of that time. Many anti-flea preparations, such as shampoos, sprays and powders are available from veterinary offices and pet stores. You will want to treat both your cat and your home..

Sprays that are designed to be long lasting are the best bet for ridding your home of fleas but before using the spray, vacuum all carpeting, drapes, mattresses and upholstered furniture making sure that you vacuum underneath the furniture. Vacuum and then wash your cat's bedding in very hot water. Before you start, pop a mothball into the cleaner bag and when you are satisfied that you have vacuumed thoroughly seal the cleaner bag in a plastic bag and dispose of it outside.

If you are opposed to the use of chemicals, fill a shallow bowl with sudsy water and stand a safety candle (night light) just above it. Alternatively use a battery light. In the dark fleas will jump at the light, fall into the water and drown. This will work but you will need at the least one for each room, and you may not get every last one of the fleas. If your cat is allowed into your garden keep your lawn cut and free of weeds.

The larvae of fleas love a humid environment and hate sunlight. Remove any piles of leaves or earth from your cat's territory. Ask your veterinarian about treatment for your cat. One of the most effective treatments is a parasiticide that is applied to a small area at the back of the neck.

There are products that control fleas by preventing them from reproducing. Give your cat a bath once a week. If your cat simply refuses to be bathed ask your vet about alternative methods. ▼

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PRIDE (pr$\bar{1}$d) *n.* - 1. A sense of one's own proper dignity or value. Self-respect. 2. Pleasure or satisfaction taken in an achievement, possession, or association. 3. A flamboyant or impressive group.

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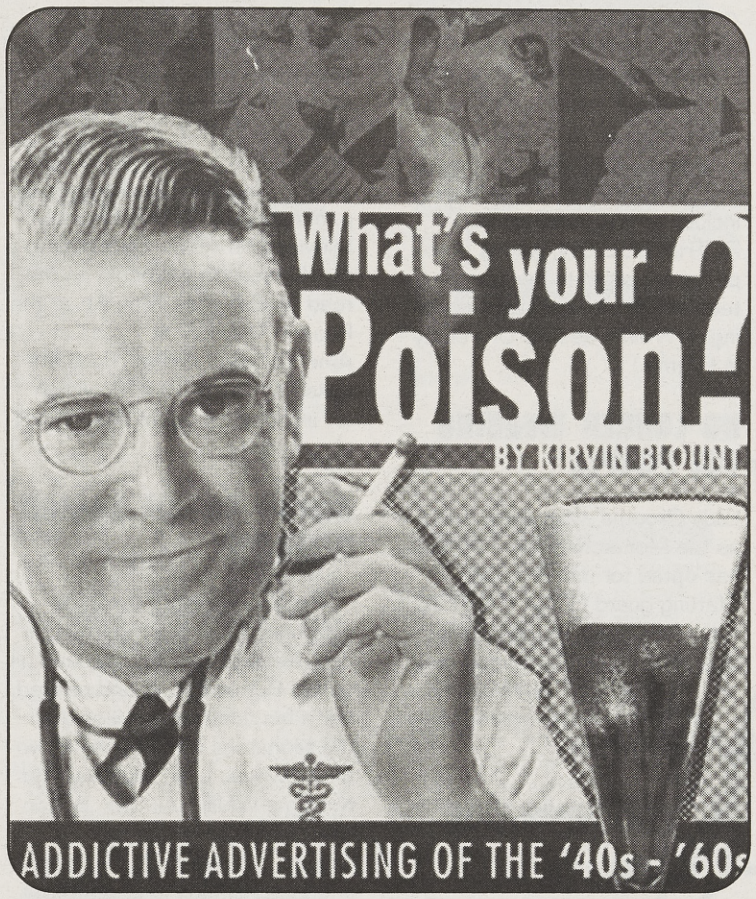
ALL money raised at Sacramento PRIDE supports the Lambda Community Fund and programs for Sacramento's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex community.

Gotta Light? Vintage Ad Books a Gas

By
Brian Judd
MGW Staff



Ah, the days when smoking and drinking were pleasurable and good for you, too! *What's you Poison?* by Kirven Blount is 176 pages of advertisements culled from magazines from the halcyon days of smoking, drinking, and general adult revelry. *What's your Poison?* covers the period of the 40s through the late 60s before we were told to be worried about second-hand smoke, drunk driving, cancer and liver disease. In fact, in 1946 we were told that "According to a Nationwide Survey: More Doctors Smoke Camels Than Any Other Cigarette!" Well hell, let me run out and buy a carton!

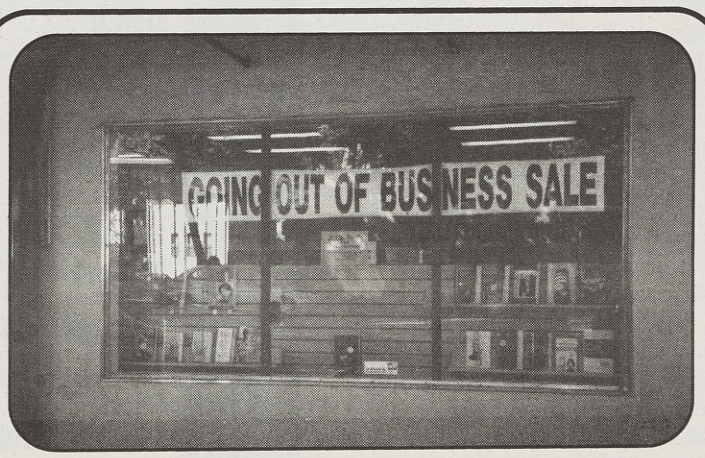
The book is divided into eight chapters with advertisements focusing on various elements and markets. We've got celebrity endorsements. Can you imagine Angelina Jolie telling us that "I smoke a smooth cigarette -- Lucky Strike!"? Marlene Dietrich certainly did. We've got doctors and nurses telling us the medical benefits of booze and smokes. And don't forget the holidays -- Oops, I mean Christmas. It was okay to say Christmas back then. "Give DAD a present he's sure to enjoy - a carton of Mild, Flavorful CAMELS!" Of course we have other chapters that cover how advertisements told us that smoking and drinking made us sexier, funnier, and more sociable. Boozing it up made anything we were doing more enjoyable; whether it was skiing, scuba diving or playing tennis.

"And don't forget the holidays -- Oops, I mean Christmas. It was okay to say Christmas back then. 'Give DAD a present he's sure to enjoy - a carton of Mild, Flavorful CAMELS!'"

Peppered throughout the book are little quotes and facts about famous smokers and drinkers -- "Eleanor Roosevelt has been called "the first lady to smoke in public"; facts about tobacco and liquor themselves -- Sloe Gin isn't gin at all. And of course we've got your morbid facts as well -- Smokers have 50% more car accidents than non-smokers.

I'm not sure who What's your Poison? is meant to appeal to. The book is set up to be a coffee table book, but it's much too small. And while it's fun to flip through the ads -- especially for those of us who enjoy such sordid habits -- they're generally too small to read the print. That's a real shame. While I guess it should be shocking enough to see a baby in a cigarette ad, I want to know what the baby's saying! Is the little tyke telling me to smoke Marlboro because they're mild and smooth? Or is it because they're flavorful and low in nicotine? I guess the most appropriate place for the book is on the bar on top of the coasters, that way your guests can flip though and look at the past as you whip them up a Manhattan -- Just be sure you use Mild, Friendly Schenley brand whiskey. ▼

Written By: Kirven Blount
Publisher: Collectors Press
ISBN: 1933112026
Paperback: 176 pages



The Open Book closes its doors May 22.

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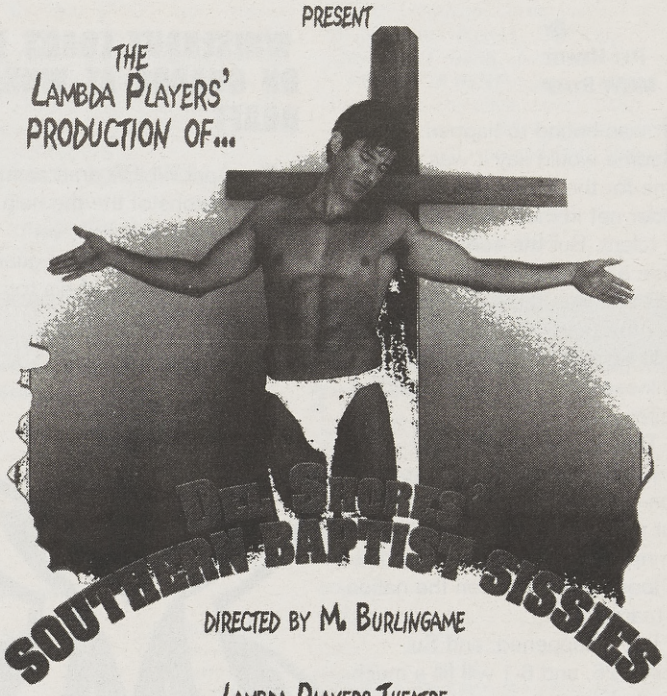

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Fridays: Apr. 15, 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20
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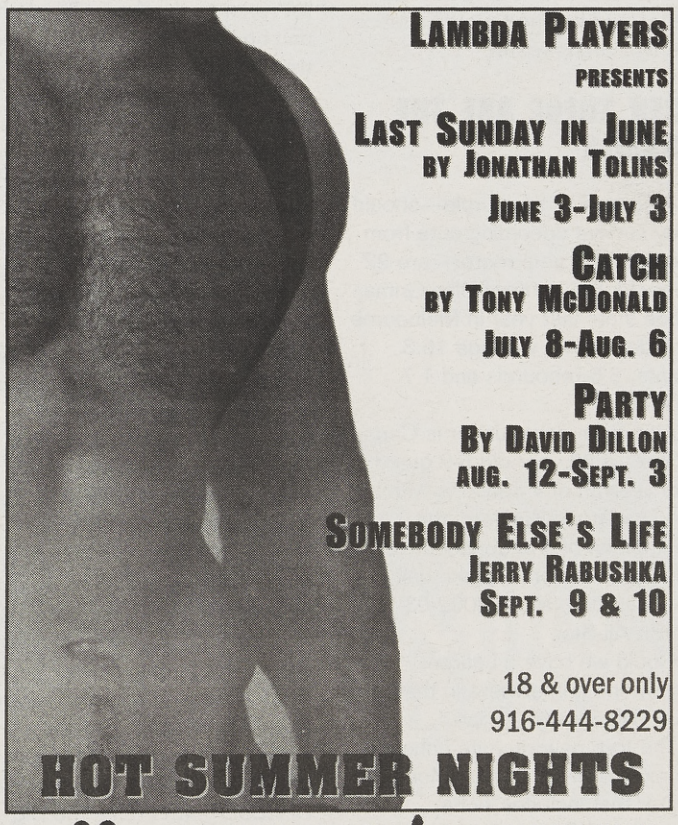
No refunds, exchanges 24 hours in advance only
This show contains nudity & adult situations
Sports Leisure Vacations MGW Uptown Studios Valley Rainbow Pages Gay Crotch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Contains nudity & adult situations
Sports Leisure Vacations MGW Uptown Studios Valley Rainbow Pages Gay Crotch

Monarchs Take On New International Flavor

By
Pat Hewitt
MGW Staff

It was bound to happen. And some would say it was about time for the Monarchs to cast a wider net in their search for player talent. But the surprise is how wide a new they threw.

First it was the announcement that the team had signed China's best woman hoopster, 3-time Chinese National team MVP Sui Feifei.

The signing wasn't easy, requiring over a year's negotiation—not with the star herself, but rather with the Chinese government who appeared reluctant to loosen their hold on the national team's star.

But it happened, and Sui Feifei, 26, and 6-1 will fill a much needed position as a Monarchs small forward. Only the second Chinese player to enter the WNBA ranks, Feifei is said to be receiving a warm reception by the Sacramento Chinese community.

As Monarchs training camp opened, a second player from the Chinese National team, shooting guard Miao Lijie is also in attendance and hoping to join Feifei on the Monarchs roster.

THEN THERE ARE THE AUSSIES

Also new to the purple—should they survive upcoming cuts from the training camp roster—are 22 year old, 6-2 center Hollie Grima, whos stats last year in Melbourne include a game average 16.3 points, 8.6 rebounds and 1.7 blocks.

Also from down-under is Carley Wilson, a 23 year old 5-9 guard and veteran of 7 seasons with the Danenong Rangers, the champions of two consecutive Women's National Basketball League titles, and a 2002-03 SNBL All-Star.

Could we have a Lauren Hammond somewhere in that mix? We can only hope.

The four new recruits enhance an existing international Monarch roster that includes Ticha Penicheiro, Portugal, and Hamchetou Maiji, Mali, West Africa.

MONARCHS

WHISENANT LOADS UP ON GUARDS AT WNBA DRAFT

The April WNBA draft assured the Monarchs of the the help they needed at guard., with Whisenant drafting three guards in all, including one of his top picks in the first round, Michigan State point guard KRISTIN HAYNIE.

Haynie had consistently appeared on Whisenant's "wish list" prior to the April 16th draft, and he later expressed surprise that Haynie was still available when the time came for the Monarchs to take a player, the 9th pick in the first round.

Expressing some concern that Detroit Shock coach Bill Laimbeer, who had a first round pick ahead of him at #7 (and later at #13) would take Haynie before Whisenant could, Laimbeer instead lost his chance of picking Haynie by incorrectly assuming that Whisenant would use his early pick to take Oklahoma's Dinna Jackson, which would leave Haynie available when the Shock's 13th pick came up.

Haynie, a 5-8 point guard, helped take Michigan State to the NCAA title game, averaging 10.8 ppg, and 6.6 rpg. As a Monarch, Haynie will become bench protection for hustling Monarch starter Ticha Penicheiro.

Also selected by Whisenant in the draft was 5-11 Rutgers guard CHELSEA NEWTON, the Big East's top defender, CISTI GREENWALT, a 6-5 center out of Texas Tech, and ANNE O'NEIL, Iowa State, the nation's best three-point shooter.

O'Neil was waived by the team on May 3rd.

As of May 3rd, the Monarchs camp roster stands at 19, with 9 returning players, (4 currently overseas), 3 WNBA veterans, 3 draft picks, and four free agents - including Monarchs veteran RUTHIE BOLTON, who is competing to return to her former team after a winter job of coaching at William Jessup University in Loomis.

NO LONGER WEARING THE PURPLE

Lady Grooms, who many think of as the Monarchs Bobby Jackson, has opted for motherhood. Starting guard EDNA CAMPBELL was lured away and signed by San Antonio, while the crowd-pleasing TANGELA SMITH was traded to Charlotte.

THE UPCOMING SEASON

A fter the Monarchs first home pre-season game against the Chinese National Team on May 6th, the final home preseason game will be May 12th against the Phoenix Mercury.

The Monarchs will play their regular season home opener on Saturday, June 4th at ARCO when the Monarchs host the Los Angeles Sparks in a game to be nationally televised on ABC.

The schedule of home games appears below. See you there!

MONARCHS WAIVE GIULIANA MENDIOLA

In 2004 Mendiola signed with Sacramento as a free agent and averaged 1.7 points, 0.8 rebounds, 0.5 assists and 6.5 minutes in six games played with the Monarchs. This season Mendiola played in one preseason game with the franchise, playing eight minutes and scoring two points against the Chinese National Team.

The Monarchs camp roster now stands at eighteen, with eight returning players (three currently not with team), three WNBA veterans, three draft picks and four free agents.

The Sacramento Monarchs will play their final home preseason game on Thursday, May 12, versus the Phoenix Mercury at 7 p.m. at ARCO Arena. The first of seventeen regular-season home games will be played on Saturday, June 4, at ARCO Arena when the Monarchs host the Los Angeles Sparks at 1:00 p.m. in a game to be nationally televised on ABC. Sacramento's regular season will begin on the road on Saturday, May 21, at the Phoenix Mercury at 7 p.m. at America West Arena. Fans are asked to call (916) 419-WNBA for information about season ticket packages.

GUARD RUTHIE BOLTON RELEASED

The Sacramento Monarchs announced that the organization has released long-time Monarchs Guard Ruthie Bolton and offered her a fan relations position with the Monarchs front office. A two-time Olympic Gold Medalist and two-time WNBA All-Star, Bolton averaged 10.0 points, 1.9 assists, 3.1 rebounds, 1.2 steals, and 23.4 minutes in 218 regular-season games over eight seasons with the Sacramento Monarchs.

Bolton was signed by the WNBA and then assigned to the Monarchs in the initial player allocation. Since then, she has been a mainstay for the franchise, starting in nearly half of her regular season games in the WNBA. During her extensive playing career, Bolton helped the Monarchs advance to the WNBA Playoffs five times (1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004) including three trips to the Western Conference Finals (2001, 2003, 2004). One of the great shooters of the league, Bolton currently is ranked the WNBA's fifth all-time leader in three pointers made (315) and in 2004, ranked tenth in three-point field goal percentage (.405). Bolton was named to the First-Team All WNBA in 1997 and was the first-ever WNBA Player of the Week.

"We have been proud to have Ruthie Bolton represent the Monarchs, Maloof Sports and Entertainment and the City of Sacramento for the past eight years," said Joe and Gavin Maloof, Co-Owners of the Sacramento Monarchs. "There is no way that we can thank her for all that she has given us. We hope that she will decide to continue on with the Monarchs."

"For so many years Ruthie has been a constant on this team. You could always count on Ruthie to come out and play hard," said Monarchs General Manager and Head Coach John Whisenant. ▼

SACRAMENTO
SIRENS

2005 Home Game Schedule

April 2	vs. Oakland Banshees
April 9	vs. California Quake
April 23	vs. San Diego SeaCatz
May 28	vs. Redding Rage
June 11	vs. Portland Shockwave
Post-Season	
July 9	Playoff #1
July 23	Playoff #2
August 6	Championship Game

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COMMUNITY

GLBT HISTORY—Past issues of MGW Newspaper are available on microfilm at the main Sacramento Library, CSUS Library, and hardcopies at Lavender Library Archives, And Cultural Exchange.

EMPLOYMENT

HAIRTECH CHAIR RENTAL—Artistic Hairtech wanted to join talented group of professionals at established mid-town salon. 454-2800 or 455-2801

DELIVERY DRIVERS—Dependable drivers sought to deliver MGW on or around the 1st and the 15th of each month. Vehicle required, truck a plus! Familiarity with the Sacramento Metro area also a plus! $100 flat rate per delivery. Call or E-mail your resume. 441-6397, info@mgwnews.com tfn

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FOR SALE

MONARCH'S TICKETS—Two Sac Monarch's Women's basketball tickets., 5th row, across from bench, many games, $69/game 916.324-6895

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GWM—Tall, good-looking, clean-shaven, bubble-butt, looking for male dom. top. 485-7806

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ADOPT-A-PET—Faux Paw Kennels, call Claire at 988-6225, or Mary 387-8811

WORKING PETS—Pets: Do you go to work with your mom or dad? Mom or Dad: MGW Newspaper would like to feature you and your pet. Send us a photo with caption or call 441-6397 and we will take the photo!

RENTALS/ROOMMATES

LOOKING FOR ROOM TO RENT—GWM looking for room to share with other gay males, non-drinker, non-smoker, good housekeeper. 485-7806

ROOMMATE/COMPANION—Seeking roommate/companion in Yuba City. Candidate should have a clean driving record (very important). Should be free to travel occasionally. Room, board and a small salary. Serious inquiries only please! Call 966-0689 for more information.

MIDTOWN—studio apartment w/ garage and large yard in triplex at 24th St. & S St. Light Rail one block, convenient to freeways and downtown Sac. Walking distance to new safeway & Sac Natural Foods Coop. No pets. $655 month+ deposit. 916.483.4915

STOCKTON HOUSE—$1400. Beautiful quiet 3br/2ba, $1400 feet, redone, quality taste, move-in ready 2/15, 510.482.9041, benoklnd@pacbell.net

KAUAI LUXURY CONDO—For rent by owner $700; 8 days 7 nights,sleeps 4, ocean view, 2005 float week. Claire 916-682-2516.

SOUTHSIDE PARK BUNGALOW—For rent. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, charming '20's bungalow for rent. Newly painted and very charming. 1 blk. from the park, close to transportation. Remodeled kitchen and bath. Laundry room, and great yards. $1,300, plus deposit. Call: Guy Crouch, 397-9488. Avail. immed.

ROOM FOR RENT—Large furnished room near executive airport. $450 plus 1/2 utilities. Incl. washer/dryer & cable. Share house and yard. Donna (916) 399-9512

CLASSIFIEDS
441-6397

CLASSIFIED ADS / BUSINESS DIRECTORY LISTINGS

1 the data...

Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone-W
Phone-H
Signature

2 the money...

Business Directory listings.....$ 15
Personal Classified up to 30 words.....$ 10
Business/Services Classified up to 30 words.....$ 20
Additional Words @ 40¢ each.....$____
.....Subtotal $____
Multiply subtotal by#____ of issues.....Total $____
(Make checks payable to MGW Newspaper. Do not send cash.)

3 the category...

- ❒ Announcements
- ❒ Employment
- ❒ For Rent
- ❒ For Sale
- ❒ Freebies
- ❒ Lesbians Seeking Lesbians
- ❒ Men Seeking Men
- ❒ Miscellaneous
- ❒ Roommates
- ❒ Services ($20 each)
- ❒ Wanted
- ❒ Other ____

4 business directory

Category
Name
Address
Phone

Policies
• Include full name, address & daytime phone number on coupon. MGW will not accept your ad without phone numbers for verification. This information will be kept strictly confidential. No phone orders. No Cash Refunds. $25 will be charged for bounced checks. $10 service charge assessed on refunds for cancelled ads. • All ads must be prepaid. No ads containing explicit sexual references or crude language will be accepted. We reserve the right to abbreviate, edit, categorize, or refuse any ad. Do not write your ad in all capitol letters.• Business Directory Listings are $15 per issue. No discounts will apply. Listing may include only: business name, address and phone number.

Deadlines
• 1st Issue of the month: 7 calendar days before
• 15th Issue of the month: 7 calendar days before.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Date Rec'd ____
Amt. Rec'd ____
Check# ____
Expiration date ____

5 please print ad here *10 word minimum.*

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Expiration date

MGW
Mail/In person/Fax/Email to:
MGW Newspaper
1103 T St.
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax 916.441.6422
info@mgwnews.com

NorCal AIDS CHALLENGE
360 Miles
4 Days
1 Cause
Wednesday, May 18 to
Saturday, May 21, 2005
Benefiting: CARES, Breaking Barriers & AIDS Housing Alliance
Sponsors: Cable Positive, Creative Directions, MGW Newspaper, Coldwell Banker/Carl Connelly Realtors/Jean Kavanaugh, The Jack Maple Team/Countrywide Mortgage, Outword Newsmagazine, Carol Wall & Pat Kearney, The McCalla Family
You're invited to join us on a journey to raise awareness and funds for the fight against HIV and AIDS in the inland northern California region. Whether you're a sponsor, cyclist, crew member, volunteer, or making a pledge, you'll be making a difference.
Accept the Challenge! Visit
www.norcalaidschallenge.org
today for more information

AIDS SERVICES

Breaking Barriers: 2020 V Street, 447-AIDS
C.A.R.E.S.: 1500 21st Street, 443-3299
Heart to Heart Emotional Support Group: 386-2504
Metropolitan Community Center For AIDS: 447-2444
Names Project, AIDS Memorial Quilt: 3104 O St., PMB 357, 484-5646
Sac. County DHHS/Health Education Unit, HIV Hotline: 446-2694

ASSOCIATIONS

Alcoholics Anonymous: 2631B Riverside Blvd., Dan, 486-0331
Capital City Hoopsters: gaybasketball.com
Capital City Squares: CapitalCitySqrs@aol.com, 929-8697
Capital City Volleyball League www.Sacvball.com
CAP/PAC, Capitol Political Action Committee: 736-2722
Female to Male Sacramento: 646-1417, kpboxer@yahoo.com
Frontrunners & Walkers: 974-8199, frontrunners.org
Gay Fathers of Sacramento: 457-1812
Gay & Lesbian Sierrans: GLS_motherlode@yahoo.com
Lambda Letters Project: 728-1261, lambdalp@aol.com
Log Cabin Republicans: www.lcrsac.com
Outdoor Adventures of Sac.: oas_news@hotmail.com
Rainbow Bridge Speakers: Paula, 658-0892
Rainbow Chamber of Commerce: 551-3832
Sac. Area Rainbow Families: 863-0852
Sac. Area Women's Community Network: 451-8034, sacwn.com
Sacramento Arts & Games Association: 451-8663
SacLEGAL: geocities.com/West Hollywood/Park/3103
Sac. Valley Pozabilities: 564-1790, sacramentovalleypozabilities@yahoo.com
Sexual Compulsives Anonymous: 712-0529, sca-recovery.org
Sisters of Scota Women's Motorcycle Club: 725-9467
Valley Knights Motorcycle Club: 455-6540

AUCTION

The Auction House: 10076 Mills Station Road, 361-8491

ATTORNEYS

Teichert & Associates: 1322 F St., 441-4410

AUTOMOTIVE

Capitol City European: 1725 33rd St., 452-5811
Cuilla Brothers Body Shop : 2413 J St., 443-6323

BARS & NIGHTCLUBS

Bo Jangles: 1119 21st Street, 448-0706
Club 21: 1119 21st Street, 443-1537
Faces: 2000 K Street, 448-7798
Headhunters: 1930 K Street, 448-0706
The Bolt: 2560 Boxwood, 649-8420
The Depot: 2001 K Street, 441-6823

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District 1: Roger Dickinson, 874-5485
District 2: Illa Collin, 874-5481
District 3: Susan Peters, 874-5471
District 4: Roberta MacGlashan, 874-5491
District 5: Don Nottoli, 874-5465

CATERING

Dramatic Catering & Event Planning: 670-3286

COMETARY/MORTUARY

East Lawn Memorial Park & Mortuaries: 732-2000

CHIROPRACTIC

Chaney Chiropractic & Rehab: 1614 X St., #B, 326-4466

CHURCHES

Cathedral of Promise MCC: 10500 Chaplain Ave., 364-4325
Dignity: 2529 K St., 492-6452

CITY COUNCIL

City Hall Room 205, 915 I Street
City Council Session Call-In, 264-8255
Mayor Heather Fargo: 808-5300
District 1: Ray Tretheway, 808-7001
District 2: Sandy Sheedy, 808-7002
District 3: Steve Cohn, 808-7003
District 4: Robert King Fong, 808-7004
District 5: Lauren Hammond, 808-7005
District 6: Kevin McCarty, 808-7006
District 7: Robbie Waters, 808-7007
District 8: Bonnie Pannell, 808-7008

CITY PARKS

City Park Reservations: 277-6060

DIRECTORY

Valley Rainbow Pages: 3104 O Street #325, 444-2322

DOCTORS

Dr. Michael DuPratt: 813 30th St., 447-2951

DRY CLEANERS

Freeport Cleaners: 2001 4th St., 442-2838

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Killick Financial Services: 2321 Lloyd Lane., 486-8985

GARDENING

English Garden Care: 489-8903

GLASS

Bob's Glass: 2415 23rd St., near Broadway, 739-8244

GLBTI RESOURCES

Lambda Community Center: 1927 L St., 442-0185
UC Davis GLBT Resource Center University House Annex: One Shields Ave, Davis, 530-752-2452

GROCERIES

Davis Co-Op: 620 G St.,Davis, 530-758-2267
Taylor's Market: 2900 Freeport Blvd., 443-6881

HALLS/MEETING PLACES

Channel 6, KVIE, Ose Community Room: 2595 Capital. Oaks Drive, 929-5843
Musicians Hall: 1925 Del Paso Blvd., 565-2500
SMUD Building: 6301 S St., 916-732-5310

HOBBIES

The Bead Fetish: 1725 L St., 447-7979

LIBRARY/ARCHIVES

L.L.A.C.E.: (GLBT Library & Archives): 1414 21st, 492-0558

NEWSPAPERS

Ca.Job Journal 2033 Howe Ave., #100, 925-0800

OPTOMETRIST

Dr. Cameron Yee: 6407 Riverside Blvd., 395-0673

PET CARE

Animal Housecall: Dr. Nancy Weagly, 456-0967
Clip Shop: 2631 A Riverside Blvd., 447-0393
Fur People Pet Sitting: 457-1655
Happy Tails Pets: 556-1155
Labrador Retriever Rescue: 209-951-3697, labrescue.org

REAL ESTATE

Cook Realty: Charon Jenner, 4305 Freeport Blvd, 763-1781
Pfingst Realty: 9978 Folsom Blvd., 362-1166
Mark Whisler, Broker: Whisler Land Co., 446-6666
Rickert Properties: David Rickert, 717.2188

RESTAURANTS

Café Melange: 2700 24th Street, 451-2312
Dos Coyotes Border Café: 1735 Arden Way, 927-0377
Greek Village Inn: 65 University Ave., 922-6334
Hangar 17 Bar & Grill: 1630 S Street, 447-1717
Sac. Brew Pub: Town & Country Village, 485-4677

SACRAMENTO INFO

Sac. Police Dept.: sacpd.org
Sac. Maps: citymaps.sacto.org

SHELTERS

WIND Center For Homeless Teens: 300 Ahern St., 443-1386

SIGNS

Sign-A-Rama: 3017 Arden Way, 564-4299

THEATER

Lambda Players, 444-8229
2427 17th St., lambdaplayers.com

THERAPISTS

Bruce Gunn, MFCC #M19480 : 418 Alhambra Blvd., 443-7171

THRIFT STORES

MCC Out Of The Closet Thrift Store: 3230 Broadway, 454-5019
Sutter Hospice/Roseville: 2120 Harding Blvd., 783-5509

TRANSLATORS

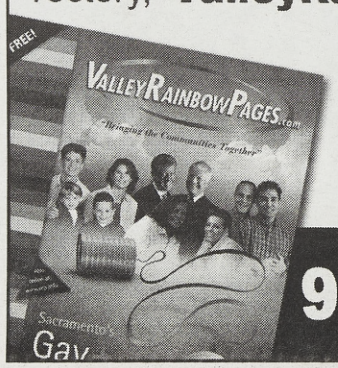
Access Language Connection: 1617 20th ST, 541-2300

VETERINARIANS

Animal Housecall: Dr. Nancy Weagly, 456-0967
Watt Ave. Pet Hospital: 3321 Watt Ave., 482-4084

What you want.
(Baby, we've got it.)

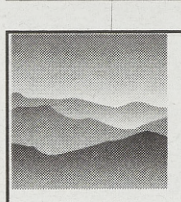
Whether you're a business looking to expand your market in the LGBTQ community, or a customer looking for a Family-friendly business or service, look to Sacramento's largest gay and lesbian directory, **ValleyRainbowPages.com**, available online and in print.



vrp.info

916.444.2322

Killick Financial Services
Linda E. Killick
916.486.8985
Income Tax Prep & Planning/Bookkeeping/Payroll
2321 Lloyd Lane, Sacramento, California 95825



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-Now, not later. Together, not alone.-

MAY 15

Car Wash, Lady Cathy Fundraiser, info call 441-6422

MAY 16

Black Family Week, Yolo County Visitors Bureau, This event runs thru the 21stt, info call the Yolo County Visitors Bureau (530) 297-1900, ycvb.com

MAY 18

2nd Annual Sac. Community Service Awards Reception California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF) and California Rural Legal Assistance Inc. (CRLA), 5:30-8:30pm , Admission: $50 standard, $40 nonprofit, $25 student, Senator Hotel- Lobby & Atrium, 1121 L St., Sac. 95814, Tatiana Reinoza 397-8135, treinoza@yahoo.com

"Stone Fruit", The Sac. County Cooperative Extension Master Food Preservers, Food Preservation Public Demonstration, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, Cost is just $3, Sac. County Cooperative Extension office, 4145 Branch Center Road, Sac. 95827, for additional info call 875-6913

MAY 19

Nathan Owens, Roxy's Bar & Lounge at the Eldorado Casino, Runs thru the 21st , All sets begin at 8:30pm, For show times and info call 1-8000-648-5966, eldoradoreno.com

MAY 20

Current Event/ book discussion "Singing My Him Song," by Malachy McCourt, 7p.m.ll 451-7191 for details

Friday Night Concerts In The Park, Little Charlie (CD release) Sherman Baker, 5pm – 9pm, Admission is Free, Cesar Chavez Plaza 10th and J St.s, For details call 442-2500 or visit downtownsac.org

MAY 21

Horticultural Workshop, University of California Agricultural & Natural Resources, 8:30am, Free, but donations are appreciated, Fair Oaks Orchard Demonstration Garden, south of Madison, on Fair Oaks Boulevard, info and exact location call 875-6913

MAY 23

Frankie Moreno, Roxy's Bar & Lounge at the Eldorado Casino, Runs thru the 28th , All sets begin at 8:30pm, For show times and info call 1-800-648-5966, eldoradoreno.com

MAY 24

International Jazz- Polish Style with Boba Jazz Band, Library Jazz Concert series, 11:30am to 1:30pm , Sac.'s Central Library, info call the Sac. Public Library at 264-2920

MAY 25

British Traditional Style Jazz with Muggsy Remembered, Library Jazz Concert Series, 11:30am to 1:30pm, Sac.'s Central Library, info call the Sac. Public Library at 264-2920

Wine & Jazz on the River, Presented by KVIE and Amador, 6pm – 8:30pm, tickets in advance are $40 for KVIE members and $45 for non-members, at the door $50 but don't wait, tickets sell fast.Lifornia State Railroad Museum in Old Sac., Tickets can be purchase by calling 641-3651 or online at secure.ga3.org/03/wineandjazz

MAY 27

Friday Night Concerts In The Park, Groovie Ghoulies, The Knockoffs, Didley Squat, 5pm – 9pm, Admission is Free, Cesar Chavez Plaza 10th and J St.s, For details call 442-2500 or visit downtownsac.org

MAY 28

Sac. Jazz Jubilee 454-2896 for details Sierra Leon's 44th Independence Anniversary Fundraising dinner, Sierra Leon Humanitarian Projects, 7p.m. – 2a.m., Buffet dinner $25 in advance, $30 at the door, Lions Gate Hotel, 5640 Dudley blvd., McClellan Park, NH. CA , info call 233-6686 or 548-2327

JUNE 3

Friday Night Concerts In The Park, Paradigm (CD release), Larisa Byrskie, Out Of Place , 5pm – 9pm, Admission is Free, Cesar Chavez Plaza 10th and J St.s, For details call 442-2500 or visit downtownsac.org

JUNE 4

14th annual Community Band Festival, 11am – 7pm, Free Admissionrmichael Park Band Shell 5750 Grant Ave.rmichael, info call the Carmichael Recreation and Park District at 485-5322

Sell & Swap, Towe Auto Museum, First Saturday of each month, 10a.m.- 3p.m., Towe Auto, Museum, 2200 Front St., Sac., 442-6802

Honored Elders Day California State Parks celebrate Native Californian Elders, Admission is free, The California State Indian Museum 2618 K St., Sac., info call 324-0971

JUNE 10

Friday Night Concerts In The Park, Mumbo Gumbo, Richard March , 5pm – 9pm, Admission is Free, Cesar Chavez Plaza 10th and J St.s, For details call 442-2500 or visit downtownsac.org

JUNE 11

"The Pressure's On" Food Preservation Public Demonstration, The Sac. County Cooperative Extension Master Food Preservers, 10a.m. – Noon, Free, Sac. County Cooperative Extension Office 4145 Branch Center Road, Sac., , For additional info, call 875-6913

JUNE 17

Friday Night Concerts In The Park, Low Flying Owls, The Proles (CD release), Spider Silk Dress, 5pm – 9pm, Admission is Free, Cesar Chavez Plaza 10th and J St.s, For details call 442-2500 or visit downtownsac.org

JUNE 18

River City Roundup Car & Art Show, Towe Auto Museum, 10a.m., Admission is $5 (includes car show & museum entrance), 2200 Front St. Sac. 95818, info call Brian at 442-6802, toweautomuseum.org

JUNE 24

Friday Night Concerts In The Park, The Beer Dawgs, Hell's House Band, featuring Mark Curry, 5pm – 9pm, Admission is Free, Cesar Chavez Plaza 10th and J St.s, For details call 442-2500 or visit downtownsac.org

JULY 1

Friday Night Concerts In The Park, Jackpot, Dave Gleason's Wasted Days, Sol Peligro, 5pm – 9pm, Admission is Free, Cesar Chavez Plaza 10th and J St.s, For details call 442-2500 or visit downtownsac.org

JULY 8

Friday Night Concerts In The Park, Las Pesadillas, Frank Jordan, 5pm – 9pm, Admission is Free, Cesar Chavez Plaza 10th and J St.s, For details call 442-2500 or visit downtownsac.org

ART/GALLERIES

Chroma Gallery: "Feel the Color", May thru June 5, 10030 Fair Oaks blvd. Fair Oaks,, 966-6020, thechromagallery.com

Crocker Art Museum: Pandora's Box The Sculpture of George Herms, May 27- Aug. 14; Material Differences, Art and Identity in Africa, thru June 19; Kunisada : Bold Master of Japanese Prints, thru June 19; White Gold: The Kathy and Ron Gillmeister Collection of Early Meissen Porcelain, Apr. 22-thru Spring 2006, 216 O St., 264-5423, crockerartmuseum.org

Design Museum: Recent Acquisitions of the Design Collection, May 15- June 24, 145 Walker Hall, Davis, (530) 752-6150, designmuseum.ucdavis.edu

Exploding Head Gallery: "Three Voices" Apr. 7-30; Benje Heu "New Work" Ceramics and Mick Sheldon "Fast Food Vixens" Oil on Canvas on Panel and Hand-colored woodblock prints, May 5-28, 942 T St., Sac.,, 442-8424, e-mail: explod-ing@sbcglobal.net

Legion of Honor: Windows Facing East: The Japanese Influence on European and American Prints, thru Apr. 30; Artwear: Fashion and Anti-Fashion, May 14-Oct. 30; Ford Fee Tues.s, May 3and every Tues. thru May 31; Weekly Organ Concerts, May 1 and every weekend thru May 29; Family Workshops May 7 and every Sat. thru the May 21, 100 34th Ave., S.F., 415- 750-3614, legionofhonor.org

20th St. Art: Ceramics by Sy Schwartz, thru May 7, 911 20th St. Sac., 930-0500 , 20art.net

View Point Gallery: The Sac. Valley Photographic Art Center 2005 Member' Exhibit, Thru May 7; Dan Burkholder, May 13-June 25, 551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd. Sac., 441-2341, viewpointgallery.org

THEATRE

California Musical Theatre, Music Circus Summer Season, Beauty and the Beast, July 5-17; West Side Story, July 19-24; Once on this Island, Aug. 2-17; Cabaret, Aug. 9-14; Grease, Aug. 16-21; The King and I Aug. 23-28m 1510 J St., Suite 200, Sac., 95814 446-5880, californiamusicaltheatre.com

Celebrations Art, Master Harold & the boys, May 20-June 25, 4469 D St., Sac., 95819, 455-2787 celebrationarts.net

Community Center Theater, The Lion King, runs thru June 5, 1301 L St., Sac., 264-5181

Lambda Players Theatre, Southern Baptist Sissies, runs thru May 22; Last Sunday in June, June 3-July 3; Catch July 8-Aug. 6; Party, Aug 12-Sept. 3; Somebody Else's Life, Sept 8&9; 2427 17th St., Sac., 444-8229, lambdaplayers.com

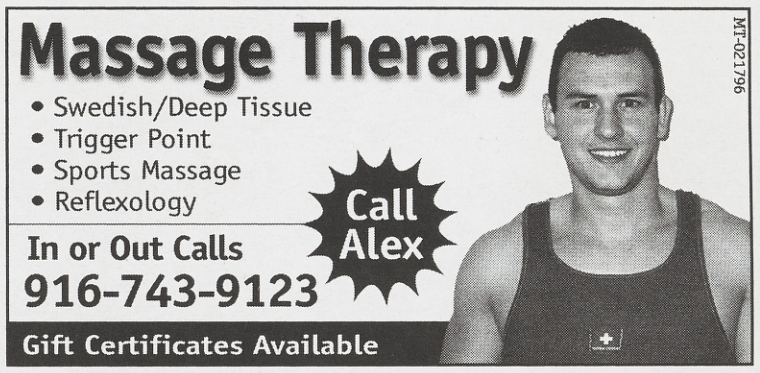
Magic Circle Theatre, Give My Regards, April 29-May 28 at the Tower Theatre Location; The Great Wolf Round-Up, May 21- June 18 at the Roseville Theatre Location, Tower Theatre 421 Vernon St., Roseville, 782-1777.

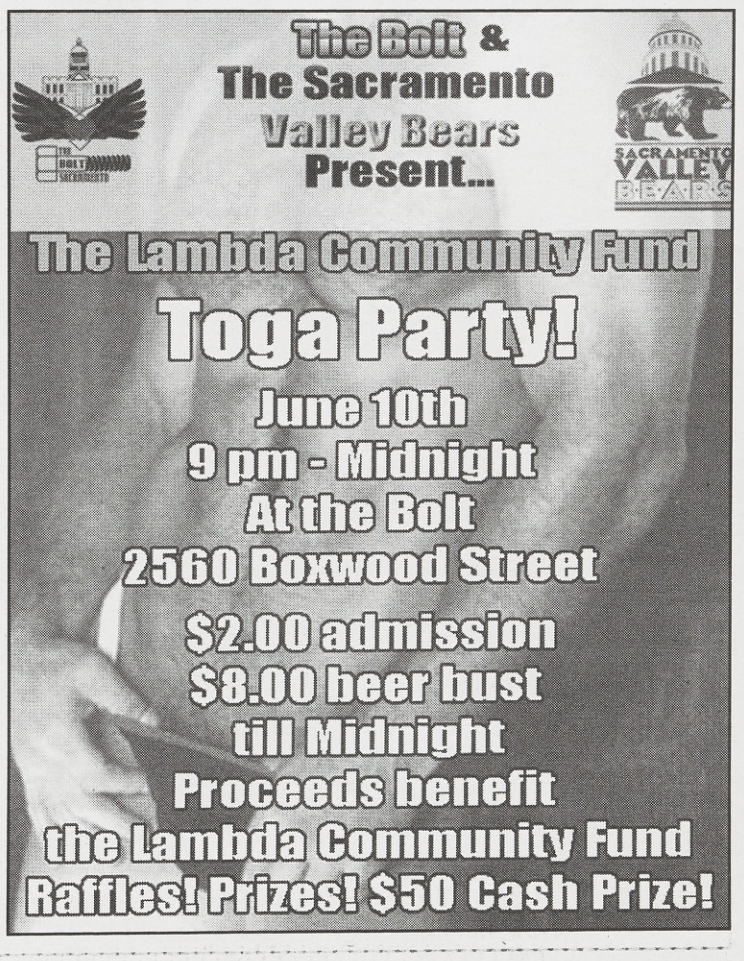
Sac. Ballet; Modern Matters, May 5-8; Univ. Theatre at CSU Sac., 6000 J St., Sac., 278-4323

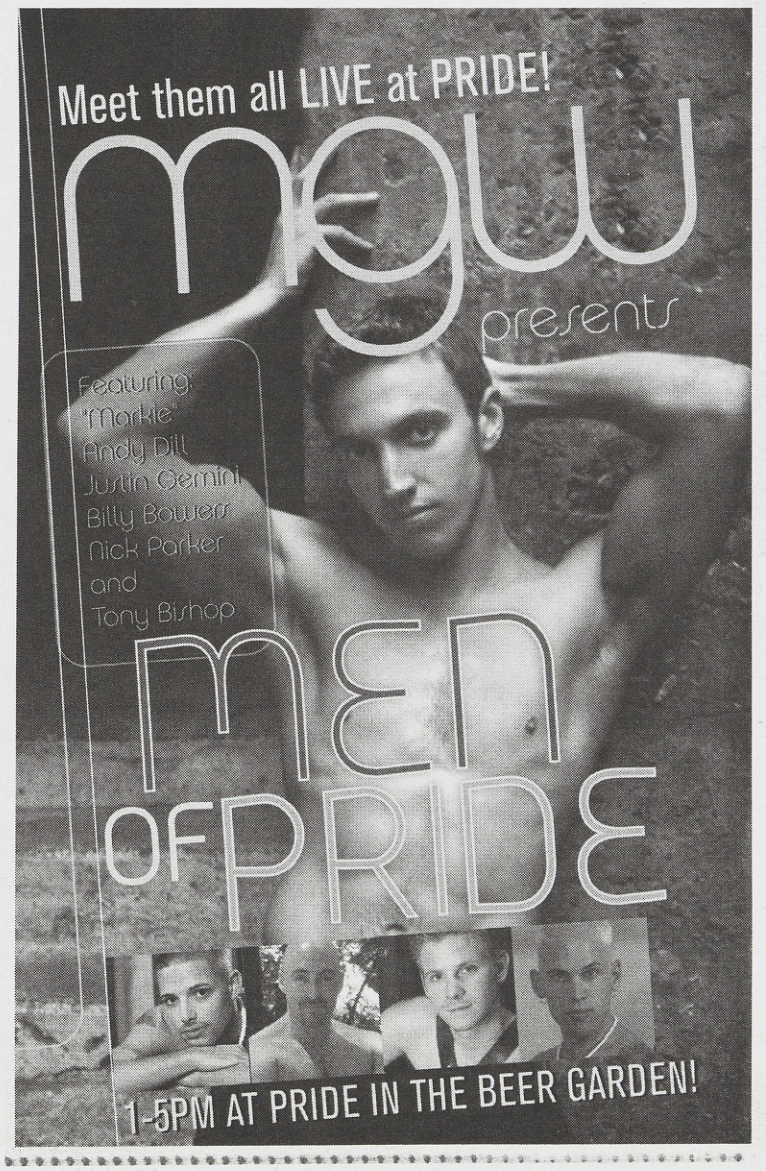
The New Conservatory Theatre Center, Whoop-Dee-Doo! May 21- June 25; Dangerous, Aug. 13- Sept. 11; Crucifixion, Oct. 8-Nov. 6; After Dark, Dec. 1-31 2006; Burn This, 2006 Jan. 21-Feb. 19, 2006; Theatre District, Feb 12-March 5, 2006; Hijra, April 8-May 7, 2006; Valhalla, May 20-June 24 2006;25 Van Ness Avenue, Lower Lobby, San Francisco, 94102 (415) 861-4914

UC Davis theatre & Dance Dept., A Dream Inside Another May 13-15 and 18-21, Mondavi Center Studio Theatre. (530) 754-Arts

Woodland Opera House Theatre Company, Once Upon a Mattress, April 8- May 1; Picnic, May 27- June 19; Nadine Salonites: The Life & Music of Kate Smith, May 8: Cheryl Sandoval recital, May 15; Barefoot in the Park, Aug. 26-Sept. 18; She Loves Me, Oct. 28-November 20; Wait until Dark, January 20-February 12 2006; Man of La Mancha, March 24-April 23 2006; Sly Fox, May 12-June 4, 2006, 340 Second St. PO Box 1425 Woodland, 95776, (530) 666-9617 , wohtheatre.org







GAY DAY

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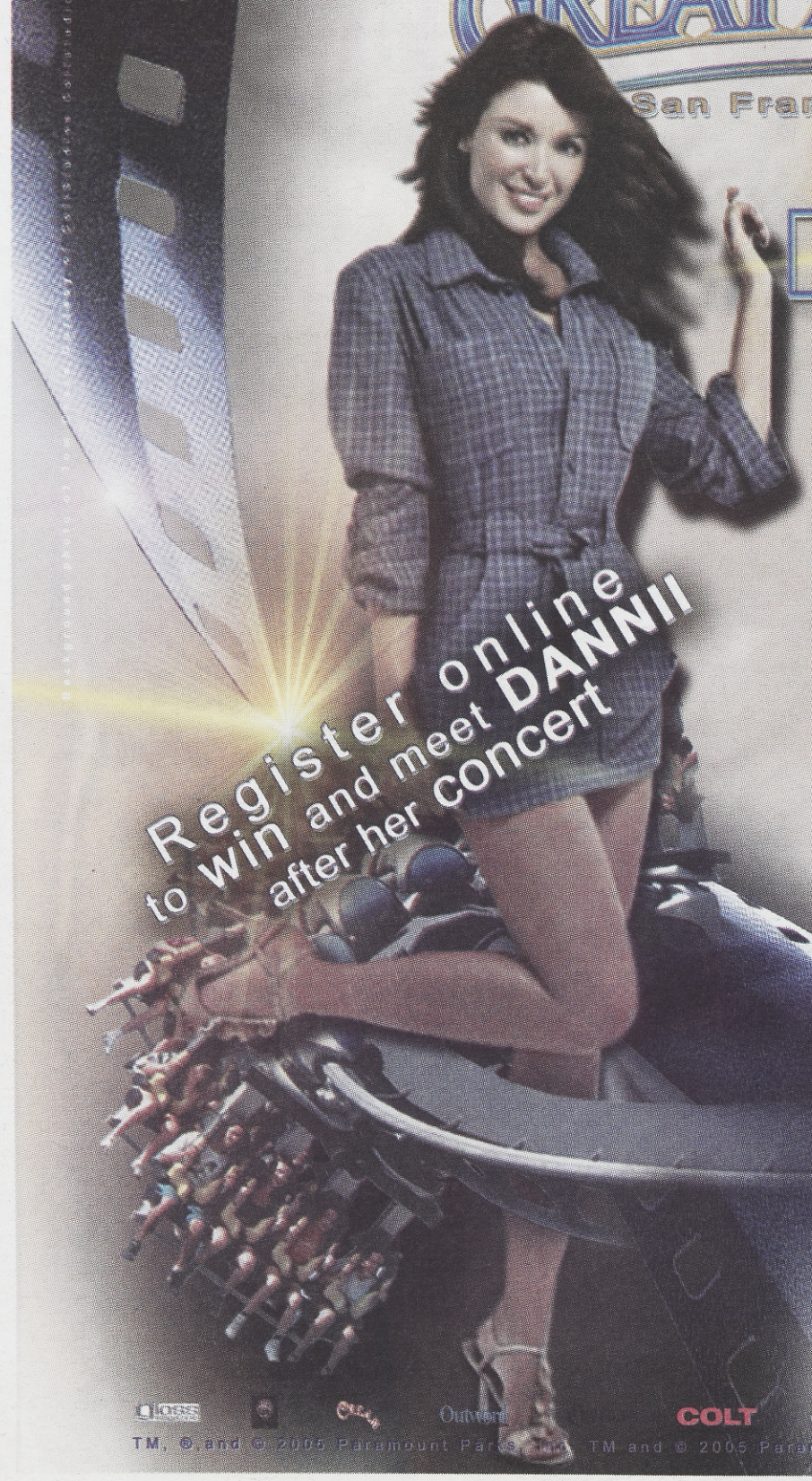
San Francisco Bay Area

performing live

DANNI MINOGUE

Hollywood Plaza Stage



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